MARVEL MASTERWORKS®

MARVEL TEAM-UP®

VOLUME 5

MARVEL TEAM-UP Nos. 41-52,
MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE No. 17
& MARVEL TREASURY EDITION No. 13
BILL MANTLO & SAL BUSCEMA

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

PRESENTS

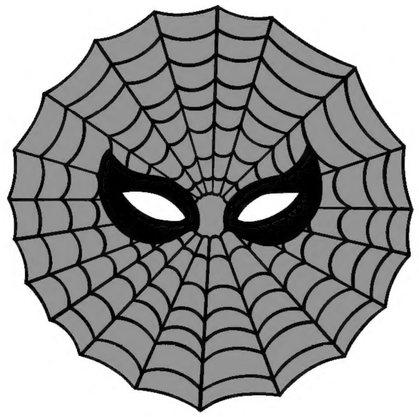
MARVEL TEAM-UP

VOLUME 5

COLLECTING

MARVEL TEAM-UP NOS. 41-52,
MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE NO. 17
& MARVEL TREASURY EDITION NO. 13

BILL MANTLO • SAL BUSCEMA



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MARVEL MASTERWORKS
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INTRODUCTION
BY BRUCE CANWELL

During their lengthy histories, every significant comic book feature has at least one "renaissance," a period when creators combine characters with conflicts, crafting clever stories that stand the test of time. A renaissance can be as short as a single multipart tale—*Avengers*' "The Kree-Skrull War"; "The Headmen Saga" in *Defenders*—or it can be associated with a specific writer/artist combination: the Lee/Ditko Doctor Strange, or the Claremont/Cockrum/Byrne *X-Men*.

As someone who was there when these issues first hit the stands in the mid-1970s, I believe a *Marvel Team-Up* renaissance begins right here, with the work contained in this volume.

The path for this renaissance took root a few months earlier. The arrival of Bill Mantlo as series writer in issue #38 coincided with the cancellation of *Giant-Size Spider-Man* and the departure of the Human Torch as a once-every-three-months headliner, meaning that when *MTU* #41 appeared on the stands it was clear this was a Spider-Man book—the only one other than *Amazing Spider-Man* until *Spectacular Spider-Man*'s late 1976 debut.

Having the Torch step aside paved the way for Mantlo to plot longer, more complex stories and find situations that played to Spidey's altruism and concern for "the little guy," qualities that contribute mightily to his appeal. The six-issue time-travel tale fronting this *Masterworks* edition kicks off the renaissance associated with the rather-new, somewhat-different *Marvel Team-Up*.

The cover of issue #41 gave readers an early sign that they should expect the unexpected, since Spider-Man is paired with the Scarlet Witch. Her popularity was then riding sky-high, thanks largely to the focus Steve Englehart and his associated artists placed on her during their run on *Avengers*, but she was only *Marvel Team-Up*'s third female co-star—behind the Cat in *MTU* #8 and the Valkyrie in #34—and unlike her two predecessors, Wanda was the focal point of a sprawling story unfolding in 17th-century Salem, Massachusetts.

Bill Mantlo rooted his plotline in the history surrounding the Salem witch trials; it seems likely *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller's classic play about this heinous event, was part of Bill's research. As he summarized in issue #42's three-page flashback sequence, the slave Tituba was in service to Salem's reverend; she taught voodoo to youngsters Betty Parris and Abigail Williams, and their accusations of witchery led to the death by hanging of Sarah Good and others.

Of course, Mantlo couldn't drop colorfully costumed heroes into the witch trial environment without playing fast and loose with *some* of the particulars: Unlike his Cotton Mather, ours was no gibbering toady. Though Mather sided with the forces of fear and superstition at the witch trials, he was a Harvard-educated scientist who helped combat a smallpox epidemic in 1721, seven years before his death.

"Boisterous Bill" constructed this tale the way one assembles an intricate jigsaw puzzle. With Wanda and the web-spinner besieged in the year 1692, it was logical that the Vision would use time-travel technology to come to their aid. The android Avenger and his mutant bride were newlyweds at this point, having tied the knot in *Giant-Size Avengers* #4 earlier that summer. Placing Wanda in grave peril allowed Mantlo to depict the Vision's newfound intensity of emotion.

Wanda's powers are grounded in mysticism and the Vision is the product of advanced technology, so Bill brought a new player into issue #43 who embodies the qualities of both science and sorcery—Doctor Doom! The combined might of Spider-Man, two Avengers and the lord of Latveria was not enough to vanquish Cotton Mather's mysterious master—so it's fortunate for them that in issue #44 a fifth hero entered the field of battle in the form of Moondragon! The larger threat was vanquished, naturally, but the final page of this saga highlights a grim based-in-truth aspect of the Salem witch trials, one to which Spider-Man has a wrenching emotional reaction.

The power of issue #44's conclusion is primarily due to the skillful work of penciler Sal Buscema and inker Mike Esposito. A key element to this portion of the *Marvel Team-Up* renaissance is the presence of the Buscema/Esposito art team, who enliven the reading experience with storytelling flourishes throughout. Their depiction of Doom's time machine in issue #41 and the double-page spreads in issues #43 and #44 add a compelling visual *oomph*.

"Mighty Mike" Esposito was an industry veteran, in his 25th year as a comic book professional when these stories saw print. His inks complement but never overwhelm the pencils of "Our Pal" Sal. The younger Buscema absorbed lessons from one of the best—his big brother, John. Sal was always a master at turning his characters into actors and letting them emote on the page. That talent is on display in Mather's grim megalomania, the Vision's seething fury, Doctor Doom's haughty resolve. Having concluded a lengthy and important collaboration with Steve Englehart on *Captain America* a year before, Sal and Steve Gerber were launching the aforementioned "Headmen Saga" in *Defenders* on the same month Spider-Man's temporal junkets began. Even without his numerous successes (including a decade-long stint on *The Incredible Hulk*), Sal's work on no less than three separate renaissance-quality runs earned him a rock-solid place in the upper pantheon of Marvel's top artistic contributors.

Many teams would have brought Spidey back to 1976 with the end of events in Salem, but Mantlo/Buscema/Esposito had two more months of chrono-displacement surprises in store for their readers. Malfunctions in Doctor Doom's time machine strike early in issue #45, sending Spidey rocketing into the far-future year of 2019 (!!!) to fight side by side with Killraven, Warrior of the Worlds. Sal and Mike explore further visual innovations with an extended hallucination sequence in which the two heroes' dreams are presented in parallel vertical progressions.

The wall-crawler moves closer to home in *MTU* #46, as he stops in 1990 long enough to have a mixed-up meeting with Deathlok the Demolisher. Their clash with snipers Strake and Grissom contrasts the high value Spider-Man places on human life against the dystopian cyborg's more dystopian perspective on that subject. This last leg of the web-slinger's journey through the ages also marked the conclusion of Bill's connection to the man-machine who once was Luther Manning; Mantlo had provided the scripts for artist Rich Buckler's plots in four issues of Deathlok's ongoing *Astonishing Tales* feature. *Astonishing* #36, released one month after *MTU* #46, was the end of the first chapter of the Demolisher's long history.

A change of pace was called for following six high-octane issues. Since Bill Mantlo was writing both *Marvel Team-Up* and its thematic companion, *Marvel Two-in-One*—in which Benjamin J. Grimm teamed each month with a different Marvel superstar—it was natural to concoct a two-parter spanning both series.

Spider-Man had spent the previous months switching eras, but this crossover pulled off an even neater trick: The art teams switched titles! Sal and Mike produced the artwork for the first half of the story, which appeared in *Marvel Two-In-One* #17, allowing *MTIO*'s talented duo of penciler Ron Wilson and inker Dan Adkins to wrap up proceedings in *MTU* #47. Buscema was no stranger to *Two-In-One*, having drawn half of its first ten issues, and here he picks up where he left off, delivering a reliable and recognizable portrait of the Thing as the blue-eyed idol of millions continued his adventures in the Savage Land (begun in the previous issue), then connecting that

action to an unexpected new menace that suddenly manifested in the Hudson River and threatened all of Manhattan. Wilson had not previously drawn *Team-Up*, but he makes the most of this chance to portray not only the wall-crawler, but also the ever-irascible publisher of the *Daily Bugle* and his more level-headed city editor.

This return bout with the Basilisk (after his debut in *MTU* #16-17) is primarily notable for its crossover novelty value, but it provided a breather for the creative staff and the audience (if not for the harried heroes!) before the next four-parter got underway in *Marvel Team-Up* #48.

This issue sports a gorgeous John Romita Sr. cover and sees the Bill/Sal/Mike team back in their familiar home, where they immediately unleashed the threat of the mystifying Wraith. Doctor Strange plays a role in the second half of the story, but the two stalwarts involved from start to finish were ol' Web-Head and the armored Avenger himself—Iron Man! Bill, Sal and Mike never could have foreseen that, more than 40 years in the future, cinematic versions of Iron Man and Spider-Man would forge a long-lasting bond, or that these three heroes would unite on far-off Titan to face the threat of Thanos in the hit motion picture *Avengers: Infinity War*.

What they *did* envision was a gripping opening sequence, again involving a panoramic double-page spread, plus a subsequent confrontation between a suspicious Shell-Head and an affronted arachnid. Given that both Spidey and Iron Man totally obscure their civilian faces, it is an expert blending of Buscema/Esposito images with Mantlo dialogue that conveys the conflicting emotions driving this scene. The squabbling ends on a moment of minor historic significance as a third party arrives to break up the super heroes, a third party named Captain Jean DeWolff.

"The Wraith" story arc introduces this hard-bitten police captain—and what an introduction it is! Mantlo appears to have devoted a great deal of thought to developing Jean's tough-talking persona, her no-nonsense competences and her unique quirks. She hints at a previous relationship with S.H.I.E.L.D. ramrod Nick Fury, she favors fashions that would have flattered '40s icons like Rosalind Russell or Joan Fontaine, and she drives a vintage roadster (one wonders if Bill was inspired by master spy John Steed and his classic Bentleys, depicted in Britain's 1961 TV offering *The Avengers*—which predates the Marvel Comics series of the same name, just for the record). The powerful panel dominating issue #48, page 9, depicting Iron Man rocketing above as Spider-Man hitches a ride in Jean's speeding car, is a *Team-Up* visual high-water mark, a pitch-perfect example of Sal's skill at dynamically posing his characters.

Bill clearly had not yet worked out Captain DeWolff's full personality—her panic when the Wraith launches an attack on her office is atypical of Jean as she appears in future issues of *MTU*, *Amazing Spider-Man*, *Spectacular Spider-Man* and *Ms. Marvel*. Jean has other moments of heavy emotion as this story unfolds, though they are understandable given the triggering circumstances, and actually they help humanize her and make her more than a one-dimensional, *noir*-inspired stereotype.

Before Jean emotes, the Wraith emerges from the shadows and demonstrates formidable mental abilities that confound Spidey and, later, Doctor Strange as well. The DeWolff family history unfolds in flashbacks, helping readers to understand the tragedies that shaped Jean's outlook and her approach to combatting crime. Tony Stark's genius with electronics ultimately tips the scales in favor of justice and sets up "The Trial of the Wraith" in issue #51. With Moondragon and Professor X offering courtroom testimony and Nick Fury and Matt (Daredevil) Murdock tied in by video link, it's a cinch. *Perry Mason* and *Owen Marshall, Counselor at Large* were never like this! Bill Mantlo himself would later in life earn his law degree and enter the courtroom as a public defender. The Wraith's concluding bit of mayhem challenges Iron Man, Doctor Strange, Jean DeWolff and Spidey; it also provides a fun comedic gag starring everyone's favorite peerless publisher, J. Jonah Jameson.

After the forces of good have prevailed, the DeWolff family reaches the happiest ending available to them and Spider-Man has found a new ally within the police force—but wait, there's more! First Bill, Sal and Mike serve up a final kicker involving the five judges who presided over the Wraith's trial—it's a scene that puts the "prudence" in "jurisprudence"! Then, they conclude with a three-panel teaser for Spider-Man's next encounter with the green goliath known as the Hulk.

That three-part extravaganza (and its perhaps-surprising new penciler) will have to wait until Volume 6 to make its *MTU Masterworks* appearance. Rounding out this collection, issue #52 features Gerry Conway as writer/editor and Captain America as guest star. "Merry" Gerry was no stranger to spidery storytelling, having followed Stan the Man as the scripter on *Amazing Spider-Man* in 1972 and enjoying two previous stints (issues #2-12 and #28-37) on *Team-Up*.

Conway's work in this issue is an exercise in madcap Marvel continuity, structured to allow him to incorporate references to the just-debuted *third* Spider-title—*Peter Parker, The Spectacular Spider-Man*—and springboard the action off events in the Dark Dimension that Jack "King" Kirby had just finished chronicling in Cap's own series. In this match-up between the shield-slinger, his old foe Batroc the Leaper, a renegade monster, and a certain webbed wonder, one of the pleasures is seeing Sal once again drawing Steve Rogers's star-spangled alter ego. In both *Captain America* and *The Avengers* Sal proved he had a real affinity for the way Cap stands, moves and fights. These solid pencils prove that he had lost nothing off his red-white-and-blue fastball.

Since the run of stories we've just discussed is all contained in 1976 issues of the series, it's appropriate that among the extras you'll find in the back of this book is the complete Mighty Marvel Bicentennial Calendar. This calendar hung above my desk and typewriter throughout America's 200th birthday celebration (its 1975 predecessor and 1977 and '78 successors occupied the same space, in their turns). It still enchants me to see dramatic art from many of Marvel's greatest, and those photographs of the Bullpenners—including birthday boys Sal Buscema and Bill Mantlo!

Two oversize *Marvel Treasury Editions* with team-up associations hit the stands in 1976. The ninth *Treasury* was entitled *Giant Superhero Team-Up*—amusingly, it contains no stories from *MTU*, instead offering large-size reprints of hero-beats-hero classics by John Buscema, Gene Colan and Jack Kirby. Gil Kane's cover pencils, collected here for the first time, are a terrific bonus.

Treasury #13's *Giant Superhero Holiday Grab-Bag* included the Spidey/Thing team-up from *MTU* #6; it also references their battle with the Basilisk in a ten-page original holiday tale that is jam-packed with Avengers, Defenders, Champions, the Fantastic Four, the Silver Surfer, Daredevil—and yes, Spider-Man, too. This touching work from Marvel mainstay George Tuska and newcomer Roger Stern, along with the *Grab-Bag*'s cover art, perfectly round out this *Masterworks* volume.

The Mantlo/Buscema/Esposito *Marvel Team-Up* run ended with issue #51, though the writer/artist team that eventually replaces them will be hailed as "X-traordinary." Rest assured that the *MTU* renaissance begun by Bill, Sal, and Mike is far from over!

2019

Growing up a Real Frantic One, a Titanic True Believer and a Quite 'Nuff Sayer, Bruce Canwell was delighted to interview the great John Romita Sr, the forthright Larry Lieber and The Man himself, Stan Lee, in the process of preserving a decade of The Amazing Spider-Man *newspaper strips in archival Library of American Comics editions.*

MARVEL TEAM-UP

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MARVEL TEAM-UP™

FEATURING:

SPIDER-MAN AND THE SCARLET WITCH™

WANDA, YOUR *MIND* BELONGS TO *COTTON MATHER*...

--AND HE *ORDERS* YOU TO *KILL!*

AND SOME SHALL CALL HIM--

WITCHSLAYER!

KANE • ADKINS

STan Lee PRESENTS: SPIDEY™ AND THE SCARLET WITCH™ ..TOGETHER!

A WITCH IN TIME!

COME YE, WITCH! COME YE!

THE HOUR OF THY SOUL'S JUDGMENT IS NIGH!

I--I'M HERE! I'VE HEEDED YOUR CALL!

BUT... FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN! WHO ARE YOU??

BILL MANTLO AUTHOR

KAREN MANTLO LETTERER

SAL BUSCEMA MIKE ESPOSITO ARTISTS

ELLEN VARTANOFF COLORIST

MARV WOLFMAN YE EDITOR

THE CHILL AND DRIPPING WALLS ECHO BACK THE SOUND OF HER OWN **VOICE**... AND THE **SCARLET WITCH** KNOWS NO MORE NOW THAN SHE HAD KNOWN **BEFORE** STARTING ON HER STRANGE AND MENACING **PILGRIMAGE!**

A JOURNEY THAT IS TO LEAD BOTH **HERSELF**, OUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD **WALL-CRAWLER**-- AND MORE **GUEST-STARS** THAN YOU CAN COUNT ON THE FINGERS OF ONE **FOOT**-- ON ONE OF THE **WEIRDEST** ADVENTURES EVER TO BEFALL THIS... THE **MARVEL** AGE OF **TEAM-UPS!**

THE VOICE IS GONE AGAIN! BUT WAS IT REALLY EVER THERE--

--OR AM I LOSING MY MIND?

"NO! IT WAS REAL! IT MUST HAVE BEEN!

SOME TEA, MS. WANDA?

"FOR IT WASN'T JUST A VOICE THAT MADE ME LEAVE NEW YORK AND THE VISION TO COME TO THIS UNHALLOWED PLACE! IT WAS MORE THAN A VOICE!

"MUCH MORE!"

NO! TAKE IT AWAY, JARVIS!

TAKE IT AND GET OUT!

"THERE WAS ANOTHER FORCE AT WORK... A FORCE THAT TWISTED ME FROM WITHIN!"

THERE WAS NO NEED TO LASH OUT AT JARVIS, BELOVED! HE MERELY SENSED THAT YOU WERE TROUBLED AND OFFERED HIS AID!

I... KNOW.

BUT... I DON'T WANT HIS HELP!

NOBODY'S HELP!

I WANT NOBODY!

SO WHY DON'T YE LEAVE ME BE, YE CRIMSON DEVIL?

THE WITCH NEEDS YE NOT!

THE WITCH HATES YE! SHE'LL NOT BE MARRIED TO THE LIKES OF YE!

WANDA!

"HIS VOICE DREW ME BACK...

"... BUT WHERE HAD I BEEN?"

HOLD ME, MY DARLING! HOLD ME!

DON'T LET IT TAKE ME AGAIN!

IT--?

YES, MY DARLING! IT!

A COLD AND ALIEN OTHER THAT HAS CAUGHT UPON THE STRINGS OF MY SOUL--

--AND DRAWN ME HERE! TO THIS DOOR IN A CORRIDOR BELOW THIS CASTLE!

A DOOR WHOSE BOLT REFUSES TO BE DRAWN!

BUT NO WAY IS BARRED TO MY HEX POWER!

THE POWER OF THE SCARLET WITCH!

FTAKK!

DRAWING MY CLOAK BEFORE ME WILL SHIELD ME FROM THE SPLINTERED WOOD--

--BUT WHAT LIES BEYOND THIS BARRIER?

NOTHING! JUST ANOTHER CORRIDOR!

YET THERE IS SOMETHING HERE! MY ENTIRE BEING SCREAMS WITH THE SENSE OF IT!

WHY DOESN'T IT SHOW ITSELF? WHAT IS IT WAITING FOR?

FOR YOU, MY WITCH! I WAIT FOR YOU TO COME TO ME!

AYE... THE WITCH'LL COME, SHE WILL!

"AND COME I DID... ANSWERING IN A VOICE THAT WAS NOT MY OWN... LEAVING MY HUSBAND FOR THE QUINJET DOCKED ON THE ROOF OF THE AVENGER'S MANSION!

"ONE PART OF ME... A PART I'D NEVER KNOWN BEFORE... PROGRAMED THE FLIGHT COORDINATES OF THE CRAFT...

"...AND LAUGHED INSANELY AS IT CAUGHT SIGHT OF MY HUSBAND RUNNING OUT TO STOP ME FROM TAKING OFF."

WANDA! WHAT ARE YOU--

THE WITCH IS LEAVING, RED ONE! SHE'LL NEVER KISS THY BLOOD-STAINED LIPS AGAIN!

"ANOTHER PART OF ME... THE PART I KNEW... THE PART I AM...

"...SCREAMED IN PROTEST AT THE USURPING OF MY SOUL BY THIS 'OTHER'...

"...BUT THE SCREAMS WERE LOST IN THE RISING WHINE OF PLASMAJETS AS THE CRAFT LEAPED INTO THE SKY..."

WANDA...?

WANDA!

"...AND GUIDED THE QUINJET OVER THE ATLANTIC...

"...LOST AS I WATCHED THE VISION RECEDE BOTH IN DISTANCE AND IN MEMORY AS THE 'OTHER' CLOUDED IN UPON MY CONSCIOUSNESS...

"...ON A COURSE TOWARDS THE MOUNTAINS OF CENTRAL EUROPE..."

"...AND CASTLE LATVERIA!

"THE ABANDONED CASTLE OF DOCTOR DOOM!

"AGAIN THE 'OTHER' IN ME LAUGHED!"

CAN THE 'OTHER' BE DOOM HIMSELF?

THE RECORDS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR IN THE AVENGER'S LIBRARY SHOWED THIS CASTLE TO BE LONG-ABANDONED! AND YET--

WAIT! A LIGHT FROM THE END OF THE CORRIDOR!

IT'S SHIMMERING!

PULSATING AS THOUGH ALIVE!

DRAWING ME ON! FORCING ME TO--

OH NO! NO!

YES, WITCH! YES! 'TIS TIME NOW!

'TWAS THE DEVIL HIMSELF THAT HATH BROUGHT YE TO THIS PASS...

...AND 'TIS THE DEVIL IN YE THAT WILL PAY!

NO!!

YET AS SHE STAGGERS, REELING FROM THE POWER OF THE UNSEEN FORCE BEFORE HER, WANDA RELEASES HER FINAL HEX...

...AND THE MYSTIC BOLT SOARS UP FROM THE NIGHT-ENSHROUDED CASTLE...

...AND CURLS WEST TOWARDS DISTANT NEW YORK.

A FINAL PLEA FOR HELP FROM ITS NOW-HELPLESS MISTRESS!

THY SPELL WILL DO THEE NO GOOD, WITCH ...FOR 'TIS THE LORD'S WILL THAT HATH CALLED THEE THIS NIGHT...

...AND THE LORD'S ACCUSER THAT DOTH CHARGE THEE WITH THAT FOULEST OF PERVERSIONS--

--WITCHCRAFT!

FUN CITY--AND ONE OF NEW YORK'S MOST COLORFUL FIGURES SWINGS FOOT-LOOSE AND FANCY-FREE ON A THIN STRAND OF WEB-BING THROUGH THE MID-EVENING OCTOBER SKY.

AH! THIS IS THE LIFE, WEB-HEAD!

NO MORE SHOCKER*, NO MORE BIG MAN OR CRIME MASTER OR SANDMAN!** NOTHING BUT CLEAR SKIES AND--

* SEE SPIDER-MAN #'S 151-152 --MARV.

** SEE TEAM-UP #39 & 40 --DITTO.

OOPS! LOOKS LIKE I SPOKE TOO SOON!

A FIRE-BALL! COMING AT ME FROM OUT OF NOWHERE!

WHAT IN THE NAME OF JOHNNY STORM IS IT?

IT'S NOT GIVING OFF HEAT!

BUT I'M STILL NOT ABOUT TO LET IT HIT ME!

HERE IT COMES AGAIN! NO MATTER WHERE OR HOW I MANEUVER--

--THE BLASTED THING KEEPS FOLLOWING ME!

AND FROM THE WAY IT'S GLOWING--OFF AND ON LIKE A BEACON--

-- IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT'S TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING!

BUT I WAS A BOY SCOUT LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THAT ISN'T MORSE CODE IT'S BLINKING MY WAY!

SO HERE I AM, TWENTY-FIVE STORIES UP--FACING A UFO--AND THE BIG QUESTION IS--

--WHAT THE HECK DO I DO ABOUT IT?

WELL, FOR ONE--THERE'S ALWAYS MY EVER-READY WEB-SHOOTERS!

IF I CAN HOLD THE THING STILL LONG ENOUGH TO GET A GOOD LOOK AT IT, MAYBE I CAN--

UH-OH!

IT'S GLOWING EVEN BRIGHTER-- PULSATING--!

AND MY WEBBING'S STARTING TO--

--DISINTEGRATE...?

NOW WHAT? I FEEL LIKE I'M CAUGHT IN A MEXICAN STAND-OFF WITH A FLYING FLASHLIGHT!

AND I'VE JUST ABOUT RUN OUT OF IDEAS!

IT'S COMING AT ME AGAIN!

NO TIME TO DODGE!

IT'S DRAWING ME TOWARDS IT--PULLING ME OFF THE WALL!

WHY ME? WHAT'D I EVER DO TO DESERVE THIS?

HOLY MACKEREL! MY--MY LEGS--!

THEY'RE GONE!

THWIP

HAVE TO LATCH MY WEBBING ONTO SOMETHING BEFORE THE REST OF ME GOES WITH 'EM!

QUIT PANICKING, PARKER! YOU CAN STILL FEEL YOUR LEGS CAN'T YOU?

GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF AND PULL OUT OF--

--THIS SSSSSS

FOR A MOMENT THERE IS A HOLE IN SPACE, WHERE A MICRO-SECOND BEFORE THERE'D BEEN A SPIDER-MAN...

POP!

...AND THEN, EVEN THE HOLE IS GONE.

MEANWHILE ... AN OCE AWAY...

THE LORD'S CHARIOT COMES FOR THEE, WITCH! IT COMES IN GLORY--

BLAZING WITH THE FIRES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!

... A CERTAIN FIRE-BALL COMES UP THROUGH THE STONE FLAGGING OF A CASTLE FLOOR ...

... HOVERS IN THE STALE AND FETID AIR FOR A MOMENT...

...AND THEN...

POP!

HEY! I'M ME AGAIN!

BUT WHERE THE HECK AM I?

AND WHO--? NEVER MIND, LADY! I READ THE BUGLE!

THE SCARLET WITCH! OUT LIKE A LIGHT!

WHAT GIVES HERE?

WHO DARES DISTURB MATHER'S PRAYERS?

WHO WOULD BE SUCH A FOOL?

GO A LITTLE EASY ON THE 'FOOL' PART-- HUH, FELLA?

THERE'S AN UNCONSCIOUS LADY PRESENT!

YOU WOULD MAKE A MOCKERY OF A SERVANT OF THE LORD?

MATHER WILL BURN THEE, INTRUDER--

FLAMES! SHOOTING OUT OF HIS CROSS--!?!

--WITH THE FLAME OF HOLY PURIFICATION--

FKWOOSHH

--WITH THE FIRE OF THE LORD!

I FELT THAT! EVERY NERVE-ENDING IS SCREAMING!

GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THIS! TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON!

AND THE ONLY WAY I'M GONNA BE ABLE TO DO THAT IS BY ACING WHITEY HERE FIRST!

HEADS UP, CHUCKLES!

GET THEE BACK INTRUDER--

-- FOR NONE MAY TOUCH MATHER WITHOUT HIS LEAVE!

RAKK

UNHH! HE'S STRONGER THAN HE LOOKS!

BUT MATHER DOTH DESPOIL HIMSELF BY WASTING THE LORD'S TIME ON SUCH AS THEE, INTRUDER!

OH, GREAT! I'M STILL REELING FROM HIS LAST WALLOP--

--AND NOW HE'S AIMING THAT THING AT ME AGAIN!

NO! NOT AT ME!

AYYEEEEE

SHKOW

'TWILL BE THE FOUL WITCH THAT DOTH DISPOSE OF THEE!

EVIL 'GAINST EVIL!

NO! I... DON'T... WISH... THIS!

YES! WE... WISH... IT!

DESTROY THE INTRUDER, WITCH!

I... MUSTN'T!

WE... WILL!

FORGIVE... I... WE... US!

SHE'S GONE! THIS JOKER'S GOT HER TOTALLY ZAPPED!

AND I SWEAR I HEAR TWO VOICES COMING FROM HER!

JUST WHAT I NEED-- A STEREO WITCH! WATCH OUT, HERO--

DESTROY!

YES!

NO!

SKTHAM

--HERE IT COMES!

THE HEX BOLT CLEAVES THE FLOOR AT SPIDEY'S FEET...

...AND THEN THERE IS IS A FLOOR NO LONGER.

LADY! SNAP OUT OF IT! YOU'RE AN AVENGER-- REMEMBER?

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON THE SAME SIDE!

THE ACCURSED WITCH DID SPARE THEE!

MY HOLD OVER HER IS NOT YET COMPLETE! BUT 'TIS THEE THAT WILL PAY FOR HER DEFIANCE!

HEY! WAITAMINNIT!

WHAT'D I EVER DO TO YOU?

YE SHALL LEARN, MY PRETTY, THAT NONE MAY GO 'GAINST COTTON MATHER, HIGH PRIEST OF THE LORD!

NO FOUL CREATURE OF SATAN MAY DEFY HE WHO IS CALLED WITCH-SLAYER!

I ... WE ... DEFY ... OBEY ... YOU! I --

SKRAAM!

SILENCE!

I'VE BUT TO LAY HANDS UPON YE AND THY WILL IS MINE ONCE MORE!

AND YE'LL DO WHAT MATHER COMMANDS!

USE YOUR BLACK ARTS, WOMAN! SLAY THE INTRUDER...

...NOW!

NOOO

WANDA SCREAMS THEN... BUT HER SCREAM MEANS NOTHING AS HER HEX LANCES OUT AGAINST HER WILL AND SHATTERS THE STONEWORK OF THE CEILING...

... SENDING IT HURTLING DOWN TOWARDS OUR STILL-DAZED WALL-CRAWLER AT THE BOTTOM OF THE MAGIC-SPAWNED PIT!

CEILING'S CAVING IN!

STILL GROGGY FROM MATHER'S KICK! CAN'T MOVE OUT OF THE WAY--

"--IN TIME!"

IT IS DONE!

THY SAVIOUR IS NO MORE!

AND NOW, MY BEWITCHED BEAUTY...

'TIS TIME FOR US TO GO FROM THIS TIME!

THE OTHERS AWAIT OUR COMING!

PART OF HER IS HIS...AND BLANK-EYED SHE FOLLOWS THIS MAN STRANGE IN SPEECH AND GARB...

...BUT PART OF HER IS STILL HERS... AND WHEN THAT PART REALIZES THAT SHE'S JUST KILLED SPIDER-MAN...

...IT DEFIES MATHER...

...AND CRIES.

1975.

ALL IS IN READINESS, WITCH!

THE HOUR OF THE LORD IS NIGH!

1875.

THE HOUR WHEN COTTON MATHER, SERVANT OF THE LORD, WILL COME INTO HIS OWN!

1775.

1692.

THE HOUR WHEN THE WITCHSLAYER WILL TRIUMPH OVER THE DARK LORD HIMSELF...

...AND STAND AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD AS HIS PUNISHER AND HOLY EXECUTIONER!

TIME, THEY SAY, IS RELATIVE. STILL... IT IS SOME HOURS LATER WHEN...

UNNHHH!

I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN STOMPED ON BY A HERD OF ELEPHANTS!

AND FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS I MAY NOT BE FAR FROM WRONG!

I'LL BET MATHER HAD THE WITCH PILE HALF THE FURSHLUGGINER CASTLE ON TOP OF ME!

THOSE CROSSED BEAMS ABOVE ME ARE PROBABLY THE ONLY THINGS THAT SAVED MY LIFE!

AND I'VE GOT A HUNCH THAT-- HYPNOTIZED OR NOT--

--I OWE THE SCARLET WITCH ONE HECKUVA LOT FOR THEM!

BUT I CAN'T REPAY THE LADY IF I CAN'T GET MYSELF OUT OF HERE!

MAYBE IF I TRY TO SHIFT SOME OF THE STONES AWAY--

EASY, WEB-HEAD! EASY!

ONE WRONG MOVE AND THE WHOLE PILE WILL COME CRASHING RIGHT ON DOWN!

JUST TAKE IT NICE AND SLOW, FELLA!

THERE! I'VE GOT AN OPENING JUST WIDE ENOUGH FOR A SKINNY LITTLE SPIDER-MAN!

BUT ALL THIS MOVEMENT HAS SET THE STONES ABOVE ME TO SHIFTING--

-- WHICH MEANS I'VE ONLY GOT SECONDS BEFORE I BECOME THE WORLD'S FIRST SUPER-HERO SANDWICH--

--WHICH DOESN'T SOUND APPETIZING AT ALL! GOT TO MOVE FAST!

DO YOUR STUFF, WEBBING!

THWIP

THWIP

FWAAT

MADE IT! IT'S ADHERED TO THE OPPOSITE WALL!

NOW TO *PULL* AGAINST IT -- MAKE CERTAIN IT'S *TAUT!*

'CAUSE IF IT *ISN'T--*

I'M GONNA FIND OUT THE *HARD* WAY THIS TRICK DOESN'T *WORK!*

BUT I WON'T BE *ALIVE* TO TRY *ANOTHER ONE!*

ENOUGH, WEB-HEAD! TIME'S RUNNING *OUT!*

GOT TO *BRACE* MY FEET AGAINST THE FALLEN *BEAM--*

--PUSH MYSELF OFF--

--AND PULL FOR ALL I'M *WORTH!*

KROOOMMM

THE PILE COLLAPSES ON THE SPOT HE'D OCCUPIED SECONDS BEFORE...

...AND SPIDEY LOOKS LONG AND HARD AT THE MOUND THAT HAD ALMOST BEEN HIS TOMB.

I DID IT!

I DID IT!

BUT IT WAS *CLOSE!*

I STILL HAVEN'T GOT THE FAINTEST NOTION OF WHAT'S GOING *ON* AROUND HERE--OR HOW THE SCARLET WITCH IS *INVOLVED* IN IT--BUT I DO KNOW *ONE* THING FOR SURE!

THAT CROSS-WIELDING *FANATIC* ALMOST *KILLED ME--* AND HE'S GONNA *PAY* FOR IT!

BUT FIRST THINGS *FIRST!*

THERE'S NO *SOUND* COMING FROM UP ABOVE, WHICH PROBABLY MEANS CHUCKLES HAS *SPLIT!*

SO AS SOMEBODY SOME-WHERE ONCE SAID--

--UP--

--UP--

--AND *AWAY!*

AND HERE I *AM!*

WHICH IS EXACTLY *NOWHERE!* NOT EVEN A *CLUE* AS TO WHERE--

HOLD IT, HERO! GO *BACK* A STEP! THAT *PLATFORM* THAT MATHER WAS *TALKING TO* WHEN YOU MADE YOUR GRAND ENTRANCE--

--HAS *MOVED!* IT WAS *UP* IN THE AIR BEFORE AND NOW IT'S *DOWN* ON THE FLOOR!

AND THERE'S A *NUMBER* SET ON THE PANEL OF THIS BIT OF *MACHINERY!*

A *DATE,* MAYBE?

1692

THAT'S IT, WHIZ-BRAIN! *1692!*

MATHER'S *CLOTHES!* HIS *SPEECH* PATTERNS! EVEN HIS *NAME!* IT ALL ADDS *UP!*

I TOOK ENOUGH AMERICAN HISTORY TO REMEMBER THE NAME *COTTON MATHER* --AND THE CONNECTION HE HAD WITH--

--THE SALEM WITCH-RIOTS OF *1692!!*

I'M COMING *AFTER* YOU, FANATIC! EVEN IF IT LEADS--

--AND THIS *PLATFORM* WILL SHOW ME HOW YOU *GOT HERE!*

ALL RIGHT, MATHER! I'VE FIGURED OUT WHO YOU ARE, *WHERE* YOU'RE FROM--

"--TO MADNESS!"

HOLY SMOKES! IT REALLY WORKED!

I'M IN SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS--

MATHER'S FOUND ANOTHER ONE!

BURN HER! BURN THE WITCH!

--AND IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE HERE'S GONE NUTS!

OKAY, SPIDEY! THE TOWNSFOLK JUST CLINCHED IT FOR YOU!

MATHER IS HERE--

--AND THE "WITCH" HE BROUGHT WITH HIM MUST BE THE SCARLET ONE!

AND IF I REMEMBER MY CLASS NOTES CORRECTLY--

--THINGS COULD GET AWFULLY HOT FOR THE LADY-- AWFULLY FAST!

UNLESS I MOVE LIKE THE U.S. CAVALRY AT AN INDIAN RAID--AND THE ROOF OF THIS HOUSE MAY BE JUST WHAT THE GENERAL ORDERED!

SO HERE GOES!

UP--

--AND OVER!

MOON'S FULL SO I SHOULD GET A FAIRLY GOOD VIEW OF--

OMIGOSH! THEY'RE REALLY DOING IT!

I KNOW THAT IT HAPPENED-- THAT HISTORY WASN'T LYING! BUT IT'S ONE THING TO READ ABOUT IT--

"-- AND ANOTHER TO SEE IT IN THE FLESH! A WHOLE TOWN GONE MAD TO KILL A WITCH!"

THE SEED OF WITCHCRAFT HAS SPREAD, PEOPLE OF SALEM!

AND MATHER BRINGS YE YET ANOTHER PRAC-TITIONER OF THE DEVIL'S ART!

MATHER AND THE GIRLS WERE RIGHT! THE CURSE MUST BE CONTAINED--

--OR 'TWILL SPREAD THROUGH-OUT THE COLONIES LIKE THE PLAGUE!

YOU SEE HOW THEY REGARD ME, WITCH! I COULD BE KING OF SUCH AS THESE IF I SO CHOSE!

BUT I DO NOT CHOOSE! I SERVE THE LORD-- NOT HIS SHEEP!

GET YOUR FILTHY, LICE-CRAWLING HANDS OFF OF ME!

YOU DARE--??

DO YE SEE THE WITCH? DO YE SEE? SHE DID HURL HER CURSE AT ME!

WHAP

OHHHH!

THAT PROVES IT, FRIEND MATHER! THE WOMAN IS BEWITCHED INDEED!

STONE HER! SLAY HER, LEST SHE TAINT OUR WOMEN-FOLK AND CHILDREN WITH HER BILE!

KILL THE WITCH!

NO! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING! I'M--

UNHHHH!

A MUTANT, WANDA? YET HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THAT AND WITCH TO THESE PEOPLE?

AND DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY'D WANT TO LISTEN?

WE KNOW WHAT YE ARE, WITCH!

TOO WEAK TO CAST A HEX... TOO TIRED...

AND NOW TO WRING THE WHEREABOUTS OF YOUR FELLOWS OUT OF YE--

NO!

WHO--??

THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH! THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER VIOLENCE DONE MY WIFE!

'TIS--'TIS THE VERY DEVIL HIMSELF!

AND YOU ARE EITHER MAD--A FOOL--OR BOTH!

NOW GO--WHILE I SEE TO WANDA! AND IF SHE IS HURT, MAN--THIS I PROMISE YOU--

--IT WILL BE YOUR FLESH THAT HANGS SUSPENDED FROM THE POSTS TO WHICH YOU'VE BOUND THE WOMAN THE VISION LOVES!

THAT'S TELLIN' HIM, VIZH!

SPIDER-MAN??

ONE AND THE SAME, PAL! I FOLLOWED YOUR LADY INTO THIS MESS--

--AND YOU SHOWED UP JUST IN TIME TO GET HER OUT OF IT!

BUT FROM THE ROAR OF THE MADDENING CROWD DOWN BELOW--

--I'D SAY THE PARTY'S JUST GETTING STARTED!

THE WITCH HAS CALLED ON HER LORD AND MASTER TO SAVE HER FROM THE WRATH OF THE LORD!

'TIS A BATTLE 'TWIXT GOD AND THE DEVIL!

AND 'TIS OUR SOULS THAT WILL BE LOST IF WE FAIL!

NEXT ISSUE.

SPIDERS, GHOSTS AND WITCHES IN A TOWN GONE MAD! DON'T MISS--

VISIONS OF HATE!

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MARVEL TEAM-UP™

FEATURING

SPIDER-MAN™

AND THE

VISION™

YOUR POWERS CANNOT *HARM* ME, FOOLS!

BUT *YOU* WILL BE DESTROYED IN AN INSTANT-- *AT THE COMMAND OF THE* DARK RIDER!

HARBINGER OF HATE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: SPIDEY™ AND THE VISION™ ..TOGETHER!™

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VISIONS OF HATE!

WHEN YOUR *STRANGE BEHAVIOR* LED YOU TO TAKE AN AVENGERS QUINJET AND FLY TO *LATVERIA*, WANDA... I NEVER WOULD HAVE *DREAMT* THAT IT WOULD LEAD TO *THIS*.

I-I'M NOT EVEN SURE I KNOW WHAT '*THIS*' *IS*, DARLING! I JUST REMEMBER BEING *DRAWN* TO THE CASTLE OF DR. DOOM... AND THEN *NOTHING*--

--UNTIL I AWOKE TO FIND MYSELF BOUND AND ABOUT TO BE *BURNED* BY THESE PEOPLE! THEY'RE *MAD*, BELOVED! *INSANE!*

NO... JUST *SCARED*, SCARLET!

THIS IS *SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS...* IN *1692!* THE YEAR OF THE *WITCH-RIOTS!*

SOMEHOW COTTON MATHER GOT ACCESS TO DOOM'S *TIME MACHINE*--AND HE USED IT TO TRAVEL TO THE FUTURE TO KIDNAP *YOU* AND ADD ANOTHER *WITCH* TO THE FIRE!

JV121

AND YOUR HUBBY AND I ARRIVED JUST IN TIME TO STOP HIM!

I HOPE!

BURN THEM!

THEY BE WITCHES ALL!

AYE, THEY BE WITCHES!

AND THEIR WITCHERY IS AN ABOMINATION IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD!

THE ONE KNOWN AS MATHER SEEMS TO BE POSSESSED BY SOME OUTSIDE INFLUENCE... AS IF HIS ACTIONS WERE NOT HIS OWN.

BUT WHO... OR WHAT COULD BE POSSESSING HIM?

AND WHY?

THAT IS SOMETHING WE CANNOT DISCOVER AS LONG AS WE...

A STONE IS THROWN...

...AND HE WHO LET IT FLY CHEERS HIS SMALL TRIUMPH.

I BE WITHOUT YOUR SIN, WITCH!

SO I AM FREE TO CAST THE FIRST STONE!

AND FOR STRIKING MY HUSBAND, FOOL... YOU'LL PAY AS IF ALL THE DEVILS IN YOUR CLOSED-MINDED HELL REALLY WERE AFTER YOU!

A HEX IS THROWN...

...AND IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY QUESTION BEFORE ABOUT WHETHER WANDA WAS A WITCH OR NOT...

GOD'S BLOOD! I--

...THERE IS NO UNCERTAINTY NOW!

AGGHHHH

LOCUSTS! THE WITCH HAS SET A PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS UPON HIM!

WANDA! THAT WAS NOT NECESSARY.

OH BUT IT WAS, DARLING! I'VE TAKEN ALL I CAN STAND FROM THIS MOB!

THEY ARE THE SAME KIND OF PEOPLE AS THOSE THAT PERSECUTED MY BROTHER AND I FOR BEING MUTANTS!

I HATE TO BE AN I-TOLD-YOU-SO, LADY, ESPECIALLY SINCE I DIDN'T--

"--BUT I THINK YOUR OLD MAN WAS RIGHT! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT!"

YE'LL DIE FOR THAT, WITCH!

THE ROPE AND THE FLAME WILL RID SALEM OF THE LIKES OF YE, WITCH!

YE AND THE DEMONS YE DO CONSORT WITH!

LIST' TO MATHER! HE KNOWS THE WAYS OF DEMONS!

AH, BUT DOES HE KNOW THE WAYS OF SPIDER-MEN?

I'LL BETCHA HE DOESN'T --ELSE HE WOULDN'T HAVE SENT YOU CUTEY-PIES AT ME WITH PITCH-FORKS AND CLUBS!

HE WOULD HAVE USED CITRONELLA!

THOUGH YE BE THE DEVIL HIMSELF, RED ONE--

-- THE GOOD-FOLK OF SALEM WILL HAVE DONE WITH YE!

THE VISION STANDS HIS GROUND UNTIL THEY ARE ALMOST UPON HIM...

...AND THEN THE ANDROID AVENGER STRIKES, FORGETTING THAT THESE ARE MERELY MEN...

EEYAGGHH

...AND THAT MEN MAY PANIC, WHEN DRIVEN BY FEAR, AND ACT WITHOUT REASON ...UNLIKE HIMSELF.

THE VISON'S GONE NUTS!

HE KNOWS THAT THIS IS ALL HISTORY-- THAT WE CAN'T CHANGE ANY OF IT-- AND THAT HURTING THESE PEOPLE WON'T STOP IT!

BUT HE'S STILL AVENGING WANDA--AND HE CAN'T SLOW HIMSELF DOWN TO REMEMBER THAT!

BUT MAYBE HE'S *RIGHT!* THEY SURE AREN'T TRYING TO *AVOID* HURTING US!

PARDON MY *WEBBING*, PAL --BUT IF I'M GONNA TAKE CARE OF YOUR *FRIEND* HERE--

--I'VE GOTTA GET *YOU* OUT OF THE WAY *FIRST!*

VISION! WE'VE GOT TO MAKE IT BACK TO THE *TIME PLATFORM!* IT'S OUR ONLY--

VISION!

WE *HAVE* HIM!

NO *GOOD*, WALL-CRAWLER! HE'S BEATING ON THEM LIKE A *BERSERKER!*

AND WHILE I WAS CALLING TO *HIM*... THESE PERNICIOUS *PURITANS* GANGED UP ON *ME!*

THIS ONE IS *OURS!*

KRAMM

TOO *MANY* OF THEM AT *ONCE!* NOT *READY* FOR--

--*UNHHHH*

THE *MASKED* ONE IS *DOWN!*

THAT LEAVES THE *DEMON* AND THE *WOMAN!*

AND YOUR '*DEMON*' STANDS *READY*, HUMAN.

DESTROY HIM IF YOU *CAN.*

BY ALL THAT IS *HOLY!* HE--HE IS A *GHOST!*

OUR WEAPONS DO PASS *THROUGH* HIM!

AS IF HE WERE A *VISION!*

PRECISELY.

THERE, FRIEND! I AM *SOLID* ONCE MORE!

BEING *INTANGIBLE* IS TOO *PASSIVE* A STANCE FOR MY *PRESENT* FEEINGS!

GHOST OR DEMON OR *WHATE'ER* YE BE!

YE'LL NOT MAKE A *MOCKERY* OF OUR *JUSTICE!*

NO MORE OF A MOCKERY THAN *YOU* YOURSELVES MAKE OF IT.

SKRAKK

YOUR WEAPON HAS *SHATTERED* ON MY DIAMOND-HARD *FORM!*

IF *WEAPONS* WILL NOT *HARM HIM--*

--THEN STRIKE AT THE *DEMON* WHERE HE'LL *HURT!*

GET YE HIS *WOMAN!*

WANDA!

I'M ALL RIGHT, DARLING!

THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR *HERE--*

--THAT A SIMPLE *HEX* WON'T STOP!

THE--THE *PLATFORM* HAS GIVEN WAY *BENEATH US!*

CRASH

BE YE *WITCH* OR MERELY *WOMAN--*

--A LEAD BALL WILL DROP YE AFORE YE MAY CAST ANOTHER *SPELL!*

KA-POW

LOOK *OUT*, MY LOVE! LOOK--

UNHHH!

KRACK

WANDA!!

GAZE ON THIS TABLEAU... AND PONDER ITS **CONTRADICTIONS.** THE MAN IS AN **ANDROID**... YET HE HAS LEARNED HOW TO **FEEL**, HOW TO **LOVE**... HOW TO... **CARE**...

WANDA? THERE IS **BLOOD**... AND SHE DOESN'T **MOVE!**

... IN SHORT, HOW TO BE NOT MERELY A **MACHINE**... BUT A **MAN.**

IS THIS... **DEATH,** BELOVED?

IS THIS HOW IT FEELS TO **GRIEVE?**

TO **HATE?**

YOU HAVE **KILLED** THE WOMAN I **LOVE!**

YOU WILL **ANSWER** FOR THAT... EACH AND EVERY **ONE** OF YOU!

LORD-- HIS **EYES!**

LOOK AT HIS **EYES!**

'TIS NOT **WE** WHO WILL ANSWER FOR THIS DAY'S WORK, DEMON--

ZZAFF

NOOOOO!

-- 'TIS THYSELF WHO WILL FIND A RECKONING!

THE FIRE OF GOD HAS BOUND THE DEMON--

-- YE MAY ADD HIM TO THE **OTHERS!** AND MIND YE--

--BIND THEM WELL! THE WOMAN ALSO! FOR SHE DOTH YET **LIVE!**

AS WE'VE SAID SOMEWHERE,,, SOMEWHEN **BEFORE**...TIME IS **RELATIVE**...

WHERE--?

,,, YET IT IS **STILL** SOME TIME LATER WHEN A MUCH EMBATTLED **WALL-CRAWLER** AWAKES TO FIND HIMSELF,,,

IN **SALEM JAIL**, STRANGER,,, AND AS NEAR **DEATH** AS YE MAY EVER WANT TO **FIND YOURSELF!**

I'VE NO **WATER**... ELSE I'D OFFER YE A **DRINK!** I'M CALLED **JOHN PROCTOR**, FRIEND, AND 'TIS **SORRY** I BE THAT YE'VE BEEN FORCED TO **JOIN US!**

NOT AS SORRY AS **I** AM, FRIEND!

BELIEVE ME!

AYE, I **DO** BELIEVE YE! YET... I AM NOT SURE **WHY!**

YOUR **GARB**... YOUR **WORDS**... THEY BE AS **STRANGE** AS YOUR FRIENDS CHAINED TO YONDER **WALL--**

IT'S A **LONG** STORY, FELLA--

--ONE I'M NOT SURE I BELIEVE **MYSELF!**

BUT YOU PEOPLE... WHAT ARE ALL OF YOU DOING HERE? IN **PRISON?**

'TIS A **DARK** TALE, THIS IS, FRIEND... A TALE THAT I FIND MYSELF AT A **LOSS** TO RELATE TO YE, AS IT BECOMES **DARKER** AND MORE **MYSTERIOUS** IN THE TELLING!

YET I WILL TELL YE, FOR WHATE'ER **GOOD** IT MAY DO YE!

" 'TWAS **AUTUMN**, THE TIME OF THE HARVEST, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD **1691** THAT THE **DEVIL** DID DESCEND UPON SALEM VILLAGE!

"HARVEST TIME IS A **BUSY TIME** WITH NOT A CHANCE FOR **IDLENESS**...

"...BUT WHEN THE HARVEST IS **DONE**... 'TIS THEN, WHEN WINTER CLOSES IN, THAT NEIGHBOR DOTH FIND TIME TO FIGHT WITH **NEIGHBOR**... THAT **TEMPERS** MAY FLARE AND SET MAN AGAINST HIS **FELLOWS**.

MAY YE BE **CURSED**, JOHN PROCTOR! I SAW HOW YE DID **COVET** MY GRAIN!

YE ARE **CRAZED**, MASTER HATHORN, AND I'LL HAVE NAUGHT TO TO **DO** WITH YE!

"IN **TRUTH**, MOST OF THESE PETTY DIFFERENCES WERE SETTLED EITHER BY THE **MINISTER** OR A GOOD **DUCKING** IN A POND...

TAKE THEE EACH OTHER BY THE **HAND**, FOR THOU ART INDEED **BROTHERS** BEFORE GOD!

"... STILL, AS WINTER SET IN SO TOO DID THE TIME OF **GOSSIP**... FOR WHAT **ELSE** COULD ONE DO IN A SMALL VILLAGE DURING THE COLD, **LONG** MONTHS AHEAD?

"WHAT ELSE, **INDEED!** IDLE HANDS ARE THE DEVIL'S **WORKSHOP!** AND 'TIS THE **CHILDREN** THAT ARE **MOST** IDLE... MOST IN NEED OF **DIVERSION** IN THE COURSE OF THE WINTER MONTHS.

"A DIVERSION THEY DIDST **FIND**... IN THE SHAPE OF A **BLACK SERVANT**, NEW TO SALEM, FROM FARAWAY BARBADOS!

"**TITUBA** WAS THE WOMAN'S NAME... AND SHE WAST A **COOK** IN THE HOUSE OF THE **REVEREND SAMUEL PARRIS.**

" 'TWAS HIS **DAUGHTER**, NINE-YEAR-OLD **BETTY**, AND HER ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD COUSIN, **ABIGAIL**, THAT DID FIRST **SUCCUMB** TO THE SERVANT'S **TEACHINGS**...

"... LESSONS IN THE **BLACK ARTS!**"

TITUBA SAYS THAT IF WE MAKE A **DOLL-IMAGE** OF MISTRESS SARAH GOOD, AND JAB IT WITH **PINS**--

SHE WILL FEEL **SHARP PAINS!**

'TWILL SERVE THE OLD CRONE **RIGHT**, BETTY PARRIS!

JAB IT **AGAIN**, BETTY! **AGAIN!**

"AND SO IT DID **BEGIN!**"

"THE **PARENTS** OF THE ENTRANCED GIRLS NOTICED A **CHANGE** IN THEIR DAUGHTERS. A LISTLESS, **SLY** WAY OF **ACTING**...

"...YET 'TWAS NOT NOTICED **OUTSIDE** THEIR HOMES, UNTIL...

MARY WALCOTT! BETTY PARRIS! HAVE YOU NO **CHORES** THAT YE CAN IDLE AWAY YOUR **TIME?**

"NO SOONER HAD SISTER GOOD UTTERED THOSE WORDS THAN THE GIRLS DID **FALL** TO THE **GROUND**... SHRIEKING, WITH **FOAM** FLECKING THEIR **LIPS**... **MADNESS** IN THEIR EYES...

OH! OH MY LORD!

"...AND CRYING OUT... 'SHE IS A **WITCH!**'

"NOT GIVEN EVEN A CHANCE TO **DEFEND** HERSELF... SARAH GOOD WAS LED **AWAY** FROM THE TROUBLED CHILDREN... WHO IMMEDIATELY **RECOVERED.**

YOU MUST COME WITH **US**, SISTER GOOD... TO **ANSWER** FOR YOUR **SIN!**

MY... **SIN?** I HAVE DONE **NOTHING!**

SILENCE, WITCH!

"THE TRIAL WAS A **SHAM!** SISTER GOOD WAS DRAGGED BEFORE THE **JUDGE,** AND HE IN TURN DRAGGED HER BEFORE HER **ACCUSERS.**

YE NAME THIS GOOD WOMAN A **WITCH!** WHAT **EVIDENCE** HAVE YE?

"I AM **TOLD** THAT THE GIRLS DID **SMILE**...

"...BUT THEN THEY DID **FALL** AGAIN SHRIEKING THAT SARAH WAS A **WITCH**... THAT A BLACK CAT DID **RIDE** IN THE AIR ABOVE HER... THAT SHE **HERSELF** DID FLY NAKED OVER SALEM...

"...AND **HANGED** TWO DAYS LATER... FOR **BEWITCHING** HER **ACCUSERS.**

"THE JUDGE SCREAMED FOR **ORDER**... BUT THERE WAS **NONE** UNTIL A FRIGHTENED SARAH WAS **LED** AWAY FROM THE COURTROOM...

"I AM TOLD THE GIRLS SMILED **THEN,** TOO.

"AND ON, FRIEND, IT DID GO!

"THE GIRLS CRIED OUT ON ANY AND ALL TO WHOM THEY DID TAKE A DISLIKING. MY WIFE... AND THEN MYSELF, WHEN I DARED DENOUNCE THEIR ENCHANTMENT. AND THOUGH WE DID PROFESS OUR INNOCENCE BEFORE GOD!!

"... THERE WERE NONE THAT DARED BELIEVE AN ACCUSED WITCH... LEST THEY OR THEIR FAMILIES BE NEXT TO BE NAMED.

"YET SOME... A GREAT MINISTER BY THE NAME OF JOHN BURROUGHS DID DEFY THEM TO THE LAST!

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY...

HE HAS SAID THE LORD'S PRAYER!

AYE! 'TIS SAID THAT NO WITCH MAY SAY THAT AS 'TIS FEARED BY THEM!

"BURROUGHS WAS ALMOST SAVED, WHEN...

NO! 'TIS THE DEVIL INCARNATE!

HE SEEKS TO TRAP US BY SHOWING HIMSELF AS AN ANGEL OF LIGHT!

"SOUNDS LIKE THE LAUGHING-BOY I'VE GROWN TO KNOW AND LOVE!"

"AH, YE'VE MET MATHER, HAVE YE? THAT ACCOUNTS FOR THY PRESENCE HERE IN THIS JAIL!

"'TWAS COTTON MATHER... AND AT HIS WORDS WAS BURROUGHS HANGED!"

"THE MAN IS A FANATIC BUT HE HAS ALL SALEM AT HIS BACK. THIS BUSINESS WILL END IN SORROW, THANKS TO MATHER!"

BUT I'LL NOT LET *BITTERNESS* MAKE ME LIKE UNTO *HIM*! WILL YE *PRAY* WITH US, FRIEND?

THAT WE MAY KEEP THE LORD IN OUR *HEARTS*--IF NOT IN OUR *MINDS*?

PRAY? MAYBE SOME *OTHER* TIME, MR. PROCTOR.

RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO DO THAT CAN'T BE ACCOMPLISHED BY *PRAYING*!

WHAT!? YOUR *FEET* CLING TO THE *WALL*!

ARE YE THE *WITCH* THEY SAY YE ARE?!

NOPE... NOT A WITCH, MISTER--

--JUST YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD *SPIDER-MAN*!

ALTHOUGH I WON'T BE GIVEN THE TITLE *OFFICIALLY* FOR ANOTHER *275 YEARS*! NOW EXCUSE ME WHILE I--

--*LIBERATE* MYSELF FROM PHASE ONE OF SALEM *JUSTICE*!

KRAK

TCHAK

LIKE *SO*.

NEVER *DID* LIKE IRON *COSTUME-JEWELRY*!

NOW TO CHECK OUT THE *VISION*! MATHER DEALT HIM QUITE A *WALLOP* WITH THAT *CROSS* OF HIS!

SORRY IF ALL THIS IS *UPSETTING* YOU FOLKS--BUT I GET *CLAUSTRO-PHOBIC* IN TIGHT PLACES!

JAILS, FOR INSTANCE!

HEY *VIZH!* WAKE UP, RED! THE PARTY'S *OVER* AND WE GOTTA GET *OUT* OF HERE!

BOY, IS *HE* ZONKED! NOT EVEN A *FLICKER* IN THOSE LITTLE ANDROID *EYES* OF HIS!

WELL, MAYBE IF I GET RID OF THESE *CUFFS* HE'LL COME AROUND!

STRR

I MADE IT THRU ONE OF MATHER'S *BLASTS*... *HE* SHOULD BE ABLE TO!

BUT THE SCARLET WITCH IS *ANOTHER* STORY!

HMMM. NOT AS BAD AS I *THOUGHT!* THE BULLET MERELY *GRAZED* HER, HER BREATHING'S SHALLOW ... BUT *REGULAR!*

SPIDER-MAN! I ...*THANK YOU!*

THINK NOTHING OF IT, RED! IT'S ALL IN A DAY'S *WORK!*

NO... IT WAS *MORE* THAN THAT! ALLOW ME... PLEASE... TO TEND TO MY *WIFE!*

SURE THING, PAL! AND WHILE YOU'RE DOING *THAT*--

-- I'LL CHECK OUT THE LOCAL VERSION OF THE *DEPUTY* AT THE COUNTY JAIL!

AH! JUST WHAT I *THOUGHT!* A *PRIME* SPECIMEN ... AS HALF-BAKED AS THE ONES ON *GUNSMOKE!*

METHINKS THIS *WITCHERY* GOES TOO *FAR* WHEN IT DOTH KEEP A MAN FROM HIS *BOARD* AND *BED!*

WOULD THAT THERE WERE AN *END* TO THE FOUL BUSINESS!

YOO HOO, CHUCKLES! TURN AROUND AND SEE WHAT ONE OF US NAUGHTY *WITCHES* IS DOING!

WHO--??

SKRAKT

'ODS BODKINS! 'TIS SORCERY!

NO, JUST THAT OLD *SPIDER-STRENGTH*, PAL!

NO! STAY *BACK*, DEMON, OR WHATE'ER YE MAY BE!

NOT A *CHANCE!* C'MERE WITH THAT *BLUNDERBUSS*, FELLA--

-- BEFORE YOU *SLIP* AND *HURT* SOMEBODY!

NO MATTER WHAT *TIME-PERIOD* -- LOWER LEVEL *BUREAUCRACY* IS ALWAYS THE *SAME!*

DUMB!

THERE! A FAST CONK ON THE *HEAD* AND A WEBBED *GIFT-WRAPPING* OUGHTTA HOLD HIM FOR AWHILE!

AND IN THE *MEANTIME*, I'VE GOT THINGS TO *DO!* ARE YOU *WITH ME*, VISION?

YES. BUT WANDA IS STILL--

I'LL CARE FOR YOUR *WIFE*, SIR. AS THE WIFE OF JOHN PROCTOR -- I COULD DO NO *LESS!*

HER WOUND IS *SLIGHT*, AND SHE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS E'EN AS WE *SPEAK!*

I ... VERY *WELL* THEN. I ENTRUST HER CARE TO *YOU!* BUT KNOW *THIS...*

...SHE IS MY *WIFE*, AND I *LOVE HER!*

MY WIFE *UNDERSTANDS* THAT, FRIEND. I *ASSURE* YOU!

OKAY... *THAT'S* SETTLED! NOW HOW ABOUT ALL OF US GETTING *OUT* OF HERE? *FAST!*

I FEAR THAT WOULD BE *IMPOSSIBLE* FOR US, FRIEND. 'TWOULD BE AN *ADMISSION* OF OUR GUILT WERE WE TO *FLEE* WITH YE! THIS IS A *JUDGMENT* PUT UPON US BY THE *LORD*... AND WE MUST *FACE* IT... *NOT* RUN FROM IT!

OF COURSE! THIS IS ALL HISTORY, PARKER... AND THE MINUTE YOU FORGET THAT, IT JUMPS RIGHT UP AND SLAPS YOU IN THE FACE ALL OVER AGAIN!

JOHN PROCTOR WAS HANGED AS A WITCH IN AUGUST OF 1692, AFTER SPENDING NEARLY A YEAR IN PRISON--HANGED!

AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO CHANGE THAT!

C'MON, VISION! LET'S GO FIND MATHER AND THE TIME-PLATFORM!

YES, MATHER IS THE ONE I WANT! THE ONE WHO ORDERED WANDA SHOT!

THERE ISN'T ANYTHING WE CAN DO HERE!

HE-- HE'S GOING RIGHT THROUGH THE WALL!

LORD HAVE MERCY ON US!

AND SECONDS LATER... OUTSIDE THE JAIL...

STREET'S QUIET! DESERTED! WONDER WHERE EVERYBODY WENT AT THIS HOUR!

TO THEIR HOMES, PERHAPS? THESE PEOPLE REACT SUPERSTITIOUSLY TO EVERYTHING ...EVEN THE NIGHT!

I DON'T BLAME THEM! YOU TRY WALKING DOWN AN UNLIT NEW YORK CITY STREET AND SEE IF YOU DON'T FEEL A LITTLE SPOOKED!

YOU REACT WITH COURAGE... EVEN HUMOR... TO EVERY SITUATION WE'VE ENCOUNTERED!

I WONDER HOW IT IS THAT THE AVENGERS NEVER SOUGHT YOU OUT.

THEY DID... ONCE... BUT IT DIDN'T WORK OUT! *GUESS I HAD BAD BREATH!

HEY RED! LOOK! OVER THERE!

*SEE AVENGERS SPECIAL #3 FOR THAT SORRY TALE--MARV.

SOME KIND OF WEIRD GREENISH GLOW AWAY OFF IN THE WOODS!

THAT COULD BE THE PLATFORM... OR SOMETHING NEW THAT WE HAVEN'T BEEN CLUED INTO YET!

OR MAYBE THEY'RE JUST FRYING UP A FEW WITCHES FOR THE LATE NIGHT WEENIE-ROAST! STILL--

-- I GUESS WE SHOULD CHECK IT OUT!

THE VISION FOLLOWS... SILENTLY RISING INTO THE NIGHT-AIR...

...UNTIL BOTH **HE** AND THE **WEBBED-WONDER** GLIDE SOUNDLESSLY INTO A **TREE** ON THE EDGE OF A CLEARING OUTSIDE THE SMALL VILLAGE OF **SALEM.**

THIS IS WHERE THE GLOW WAS **COMING FROM!** **HEY!**

WILLYA **LOOK** AT THAT!

"IT'S **MATHER**... AND SOME WEIRD-LOOKIN' DUDE ON A BIG BLACK **HORSE!** AND **HE'S** THE ONE THAT'S **GLOWING!**"

YE HAVE COME AT LAST!

YES, MATHER... THE **DARK-RIDER** HAS **COME**... AT LAST.

'TWAS YOUR POWER THAT DID ALLOW ME TO DO THE LORD'S WORK IN SALEM!

I THANK THEE, MASTER... AND ONLY WISH TO SERVE YE FURTHER!

YOU **WILL** DO THAT, MATHER. THE **DARK-RIDER SWEARS** IT.

WHEN SALEM HAS BEEN... **CLEANSED,** SHALL WE SAY? THEN WILL I COME INTO MY **OWN!**

THE NOOSE IS **TIGHTENING.** MY TIME IS DRAWING **NIGH!**

MATHER! IT WAS **HE** THAT CAUSED ALL THIS! **HE** THAT POSSESSED WANDA... DROVE HER TO THIS PLACE... CAUSED HER **PAIN!**

IT WAS MATHER... AND HE SHALL **PAY!**

VISION! COME **BACK,** BLAST IT! WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE **PLATFORM** IS YET!

MATHER!!

THE ENRAGED ANDROID IS **BEYOND** HEARING... BEYOND **STOPPING.** THERE IS NO **THOUGHT** LEFT IN HIM THAT DOES NOT CRY OUT...

...REVENGE!

MATHER! WHAT--?

'TIS THE DEMON!

HE HAS FREED HIMSELF!

YES, HUMAN! FREE!

FREE TO AVENGE ONE THAT YOU HURT!

MY WIFE!!

VISION! STOP IT! YOU'LL KILL HIM!

EVEN THOUGH HE DESERVES IT--

--THAT STILL DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT!

NO... IT DOES... NOT GIVE ME THE RIGHT!

YOU ARE SAVED, MATHER... FOR NOW!

WHO IS SAVED, AND WHO IS NOT SAVED... IS FOR ME TO SAY, RED ONE!

YOU HAVE DEPRIVED ME OF A USEFUL PAWN, AND I DARESAY, FROM WHAT HAS BEEN THUS FAR SAID--

--THE WOMAN IS FREE AS WELL! THAT COULD BE ... UNFORTUNATE!

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT HAVE YOU TO DO WITH MY WIFE?

I SENSE... POWER... HERE! A POWER THAT IS BEYOND MATHER! BEYOND ANY WHICH I HAVE FACED THUS FAR!

IN OTHER WORDS, WE'RE MEETING THE BIG CHEESE!

HIYA, CHEESE! WHAT SAY YOU SHOW US WHERE YOU STASHED OUR TIME MACHINE AND WE'LL BE ON OUR MERRY WAY?

I AM SORRY, FRIENDS... BUT THAT CANNOT BE!

I HAVE NEED OF THE WOMAN AND, IF IT IS AS THE RED ONE CLAIMS, THAT HE IS HER HUSBAND... YOU ARE THEN IN THE WAY, AND MUST BE DISPOSED OF!

GO, MY PET...

AWWKKKK

...SLAM THEM!

AWRKK

GOOD GRIEF! HIS RAVEN IS GROWING RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES!

COMING RIGHT AT ME--

JUMP, SPIDER-MAN!

JUMP!!

I'M JUMPING, VIZH--

SKREEEE

--I'M JUMPING!!

ZISST

PERHAPS A BLAST OF INTENSE HEAT WILL STOP IT!

THERE! IT IS DONE!

THE FLAMING RAVEN SHRIEKS, A COMET-LIKE BLAZE OF DEATH ABOVE THE CLEARING...

...THEN FALLS TO EARTH... ITS SCREAM DRIFTING OFF ACROSS THE NIGHT...

SKREEEE

...YET, IN DEATH, IT DOES NOT BECOME BLACKENED ASH, AS ONE WOULD EXPECT...

...BUT MERELY REVERTS TO ITS FORMER SIZE.

YOU HAVE SLAIN THE BIRD OF NIGHT, RED ONE! YOUR POWER IS MORE THAN I HAD RECKONED WITH FROM THE PEOPLE OF THIS TIME!

THAT'S BECAUSE WE'RE NOT OF THIS TIME, FRECKLES! LIKE I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU--

TELL HIM NOTHING, SPIDER-MAN! HE MUST NOT SUSPECT FROM WHENCE YOU CAME!

FROM WHENCE ANY OF US HAVE COME!

HOLY HANNAH! IT'S--

DOCTOR DOOM, FOOL!

AND THOUGH IT *RANKLES* TO ALLY MYSELF WITH SUCH AS *YOU*--

-- I FIND NOW THAT I *MUST*, OR THE EARTH AS WE HAVE COME TO *KNOW IT*--

--*WILL NEVER BE!*

HE'S COME! HE'S COME!

THE AVENGING ANGEL OF THE LORD IS COME AT LAST! NOW WILL MAN BE SAVED... FROM HIMSELF!

BROTHER, ARE *YOU* IN FOR A *SURPRISE!*

YES, FRIENDS, WE'RE ALL IN FOR A SURPRISE AS THE HEROES AND VILLAINS OF THE PRESENT MIX IT UP IN **A PAST GONE MAD!** DON'T MISS IT!

MARVEL TEAM-UP
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FEATURING

SPIDER-MAN AND DR. DOOM

TM TM TM

FOOLS, HOW CAN YOU HOPE TO **DEFEAT** A BEING WHO HAS LIVED FOR **CENTURIES?**

SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH!

I DON'T **KNOW,** UGLY-- BUT WE'RE GONNA **FIND OUT!**

A PAST GONE MAD!

STAN LEE PRESENTS: SPIDEY AND DR. DOOM DO TOGETHER!

BILL MANTLO WRITER | SAL BUSCEMA & M. ESPOSITO ARTISTS | KAREN MANTLO, JANICE COHEN, LETTERER COLORIST | MARV WOLFMAN EDITOR

A PAST GONE MAD!

YOU HAVE COME, DOOM...AS I KNEW YOU WOULD!

IT WAS YOUR POWER THAT DREW ME HERE... POWER SUCH AS EVEN DOOM HAS NEVER KNOWN!

YOU ARE THE ANGEL OF LIGHT, MASTER! COME TO BATTLE THE DARKNESS OF MAN!

GREAT! WE'RE CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A SUPER-VILLAIN SANDWICH--

--AND MATHER DECIDES TO FLIP OUT!

IT IS THE DARK RIDER'S MOVE, SPIDER-MAN! WE CAN BUT WAIT ON HIM!

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS, 1692. DRAWN TO FOLLOW THE KIDNAPPED SCARLET WITCH INTO THE PAST VIA THE TIME-PLATFORM OF DR. DOOM... SPIDEY AND THE VISION FIND THEMSELVES ONLOOKERS AT THE SALEM WITCH-RIOTS... AND PAWNS IN AN ENIGMATIC GAME OF POWER... A GAME SEEMINGLY CONTROLLED BY THE MYSTERIOUS DARK RIDER!

JV163

MY SERVANT SWITCHES HIS ALLEGIANCE TO YOU, DOOM!

I GIVE HIM FREELY, AS I HAVE DONE WITH HIM!

WHAT TRICK IS THIS--?

YOU ARE A SIGN, MASTER!

THE LORD HAS SENT YOU TO GUIDE HIS SERVANT MATHER!

TO SHOW HIM THE WAY TO THE LIGHT!

TO CLEANSE THE WORLD OF EVIL AND BE A HIGH-PRIEST OF HIS GOOD!

FOOL!

YOUR MASTER SEEKS TO CONFOUND ME WITH YOUR INCOHERENT BABBLINGS!

NO, MASTER--

AWAY!!

LOOKS LIKE NEITHER SIDE WANTS YOU, COTTON! YOU'VE BEEN BENCHED!

AND THIS... CREATURE... IS THE SLIME THAT DARED STRIKE AT MY WIFE?

--NOOOooo

DOOM HAS NO PATIENCE FOR GAMES... UNLESS THEY ARE HIS OWN!

REVEAL YOUR PURPOSE IN DRAWING ME HERE, RIDER! OR FACE THE WRATH OF DOOM!

YOUR WRATH IS OF NO CONCERN TO ME, DOOM--

--NOR DO YOUR THREATS CARRY ANY WEIGHT!

THE DARK RIDER HAS BUT ONE INTEREST IN YOU AND THE MEN OF YOUR TIME!

AND THAT IS THE POWER OF WITCHCRAFT THAT SOME AMONG YOU POSSESS--

--A POWER GIVEN YOU, DOOM, AS YOUR BIRTH-RIGHT! A GIFT FROM YOUR MOTHER!

YOU... KNOW... OF MY MOTHER?

AHEM! THIS IS ALL PEACHY, GROUP--

--BUT IT STILL DOESN'T ADD UP TO ALMOST KILLING THE VISION, THE SCARLET WITCH, AND ME A WHILE BACK!

AND WHILE I HATE TO BREAK IN ON YOUR LITTLE GAME OF TWENTY QUESTIONS--

--I THINK IT'S TIME WE GOT SOME ANSWERS!

YOU CLAIMED ALLIANCE WITH US, DOOM!

THEN STRIKE WITH US-- AGAINST THE RIDER!

I WILL TOLERATE NO INTERRUPTIONS, RED ONE!

NOT --NOT NOW-- EVER!

HE--HE'S DOIN' IT AGAIN, VIZH!

JUST BY WAVING HIS HANDS!

THE CAT UPON HIS SHOULDER! IT--

--IS TRANSFORMING!

GROWING!!

AND IT MUST THINK WE'RE TABBY TREATS--

-- 'CAUSE IT'S COMIN' RIGHT AT US!

MY EYE BURSTS WORKED ON THE RIDER'S FIRST CREATION--*

--PERHAPS AGAIN...?

*THE GIANT RAVEN OF LAST ISH--MARV.

NO! IT IS NOT STOPPING!

SKRCH

RRRR!

VISION! GET OUT OF THE WAY--

--CAUSE TABBY IS DEFINITELY MAD!

IT IS TURNING ON YOU, SPIDER-MAN!

GAZE INTO THE FUTURE, VICTOR VON DOOM! GAZE INTO YOUR PAST!

SEE THE YOUNG GYPSY WHO WILL BE YOURSELF AS HE SEARCHES AMONG THE BELONGINGS OF HIS MURDERED MOTHER! A MOTHER WHO WAS--

--A WITCH!! I NEVER SUSPECTED!

BUT NOW HER SECRETS WILL BE MINE!

--TAMPERING WITH THE SECRETS OF THE AGES--

--UNTIL, IN YOUR MONUMENTAL EGOISM... YOU WENT TOO FAR--

SOON THE DOORS TO OTHER WORLDS... OTHER REALITIES... WILL LIE OPEN BEFORE ME!

--AND SCARRED YOURSELF FOR LIFE!

THE POWER WAS IN YOU, DOOM... AND YOU USED IT WELL! MASTERING HER BLACK ARTS TO ENRICH YOURSELF AND TAKE YOU AWAY FROM THE POVERTY-STRICKEN LAND OF YOUR BIRTH--

--TO ANOTHER LAND... WHERE MEN SOUGHT WITH SCIENCE FOR THE VERY MYSTERIES YOU HUNGERED AFTER THROUGH MAGIC!

SINCE WE'RE BOTH SCIENCE MAJORS, FELLA ... HOW ABOUT US ROOMING TOGETHER?

THE NAME'S RICHARDS... REED RICHARDS!

I SHARE NOTHING WITH ANYONE, RICHARDS!

I DESIRE ONLY PRIVACY!

AND IN PRIVATE YOU MASTERED SCIENCE AS EASILY AS YOU HAD MASTERED ALL ELSE IN YOUR LIFE--

NO! WHAT HAVE I DONE?? I'M UGLY!! UGLY!!

NEVER AGAIN WILL ANYONE LOOK ON THE FACE OF VICTOR VON DOOM-- AND LIVE!

AND THERE YOU STOPPED, DOOM... MASTER OF ALL YOU'D ATTEMPTED! BUT YOUR POWER LAY DORMANT WITHIN YOU... UNTAPPED, AS YOU HAD POWER ENOUGH FOR YOUR NEEDS!

BUT I HAVE NEED OF THAT POWER! IT WILL BE MINE DOOM! MINE!

A SLIGHTLY ABRIDGED RETELLING OF DOOM'S AWESOME ORIGIN, AS SHOWN IN FF ANNUAL #2, 1964--MARV.

AHA! RIGHT INTO MY TRAP!

I WISH!

THWIP!

THWIP!

LET'S SEE HOW KITTY FEELS WITH A FACE-FULL A WEBBING!

NOT TOO GOOD... JUDGING FROM HIS REACTION!

SCRATCH THAT IDEA, I GUESS...!

UH-OH! PUSS'N' BOOTS HAS GOT ME CORNERED!

SPIDER-MAN! ALTHOUGH MY BLASTS MAY NOT STOP THE CREATURE--

--THEY MAY DISTRACT IT!

YOU KNOW THAT OF ME WHICH NO MAN COULD EVER GUESS!

NOT EVEN IN HIS DARKEST DREAMS!

I AM NO MERE MAN, VON DOOM--

--I AM THE RIDER--

--AND NO DREAMS EXIST AS DARK AS MINE!

LOOKS LIKE THIS IS IT FOR YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN!

I CANNOT REACH YOU IN TIME, MY FRIEND!

IT FIGURES! IT'S JUST MY LUCK TO DIE BEFORE I'M EVEN BORN!

BUT I CAN!

STRAAKKK

WHO--??

THE CAT SCREAMS AT THE FORCES WHICH LASH ACROSS ITS BODY...

YOWRRR

...AND THEN IT DIES THE ONLY DEATH ALLOWED IT...

...REVERSION TO THAT WHICH IT WAS.

ONE MINUTE WE'RE FIGHTING A SUPER-NATURAL SABER-TOOTH--

--AND THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW WE'RE LOOKING AT A SMOULDERING SIAMESE!

IF THIS THING GETS ANY CRAZIER--

THAT STILL DOES NOT TELL US WHERE THE ATTACK UPON IT CAME FROM, MY FRIEND!

NOR WHO LAUNCHED IT--

I THINK THE ANSWER TO *THAT* IS COMING UP *NOW*, VIZH--

--AND IT LOOKS A HECKUVA *LOT* LIKE YOUR *WIFE!*

TIRED! SO *TIRED!!*

BUT MY HEX *STOPPED* THE CREATURE! I WAS IN *TIME!*

WANDA!!

FORGIVE ME, BELOVED! I--

THERE IS NOTHING TO *FORGIVE*, MY LOVE! I SHOULD HAVE *KNOWN* WHEN I LEFT YOU WITH THE *WIFE* OF JOHN PROCTOR--

--THAT YOU WOULD *NEVER* ALLOW YOURSELF TO *STAY*... AS LONG AS YOU THOUGHT *ME* IN *DANGER!*

AGAIN I AM MADE TO *UNDERSTAND*... MY *LOVE* FOR YOU!

TAKE *CARE* OF HER, VIZH... WHILE I CHECK OUT HOW THE GOOD *DOCTOR* IS--

--*UH OH!* MAYBE I DON'T WANT TO *KNOW!*

I *FEED* ON YOUR POWER JUST BY YOUR *PROXIMITY* TO ME, DOOM--

--DRAINING YOU *SLOWLY*--

--AS I *ALSO* DRAIN THE *WOMAN!*

BUT IT IS SLOW! TOO SLOW!!

YOU *GROW*... WITH EACH PASSING *SECOND!*

YES! I GROW!

I BECOME THAT WHICH I AM! WHICH I MUST BE!

COWER, VICTOR VON DOOM! FALL ON YOUR KNEES BEFORE ME!

BEFORE THE AWESOME POWER OF THE DARK RIDER!!

DOOM KNEELS TO NO ONE, BE HE MAN--

--OR GOD!

OBOY! LOOKS LIKE THE FAT'S IN THE FIRE NOW, GROUP!

AND I DON'T THINK EITHER ONE OF THEM CARES IF WE GET BURNED!

GOD? I AM MORE THAN ANY GOD, DOOM!

GODS PASS AWAY AND ARE FORGOTTEN!

BUT I AM A RIDER ON THE WINDS OF TIME! I AM ETERNAL!

THEN IT WILL BE DOOM WHO SLAYS ETERNITY, RIDER!

STRAKKAA

FOR IF IT IS MY POWER YOU SEEK--

--YOU SHALL HAVE IT!

SALEM. 18 AUGUST, 1692.

COME, JOHN PROCTOR. THE JUDGES HAVE BID US BRING YE AND THE OTHER *WITCHES* BEFORE OUR COURT!

WE BE NOT WITCHES, FRIEND... WE'LL SWEAR BEFORE *GOD* TO THAT!

JOHN PROCTOR! YE AND THESE OTHERS HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF *BEWITCHING* THE CHILDREN OF SALEM! OF SENDING THY *SPECTRAL SHAPE* AMONGST THEM!

HOW *PLEAD* YE?

I AM *NO* WITCH, SIR... NOR IS MY *WIFE!*

THE GIRLS SAY YE *ARE*, MAN! YE *MUST* BE... IF THEY *SAY IT!*

ADMIT IT AND *REPENT*... AND WE'LL PRAY FOR THE SALVATION OF YOUR *SOUL!* YE'LL *LIVE!*

REFUSE ADMISSION AND YE'LL *HANG!* SUCH IS THE *LAW!*

WHAT--?

A WITCH! A WITCH!

HE SENDS HIS *SHAPE* TO BITE THE *JUDGES!*

HE SENDS THE *DEVIL* AT US!

STOP! WHAT ARE YE *SAYING?*

ARE YE *MAD??*

WHAT CAN THEY *SEE?*

WHAT, INDEED... IN MADNESS?

HE DOTH SEND *SIRENS* OF THE LORD OF *HELL* AGAINST THEE... TO *TEMPT* THEE!

HE DOTH SEEK TO *LIVE* BY TEMPTING THE *JUDGES* WITH THEIR BLACK *CHARMS!*

HE *HURTS* US! HE IS *KILLING US!*

SIRENS? I SEE NOTHING!

NOTHING!!

THERE!

THEY ARE THERE!

I SEE THEM WELL! THE JUDGE IS A WITCH!

NOOOO! THERE WAS NOTHING!

THE DEVIL HAS TAKEN HIM! GUARDS!

COME... WITCH!

JOHN PROCTOR! WILL YE CEASE YOUR TORMENT OF THESE YOUNG GIRLS?

REPENT, MAN! ADMIT YOUR GUILT!

I KNOW NOT WHAT, IN THEIR HYSTERIA, THE FOLK IN THIS ROOM DID SEE! I SAW NOTHING!

I AM NO WITCH!

BUT PROCTOR'S DENIAL DOES NO GOOD. THE GIRLS ARE THROWN ONCE MORE INTO A VIOLENT, TWISTING, CONVULSIVE FIT... FOAM FLECKING THEIR LIPS... THEIR EYES MAD WITH FEAR OF THE DEVIL. A DEVIL ONLY THEY CAN SEE...

...AND WHAT STRENGTH IS THERE IN A MERE MORTAL JUDGE TO DOUBT THAT OF WHICH EVERYONE ELSE IS CONVINCED?

HE MUST BE A WITCH!

BUT WE SAW NO SHAPE ABOVE US!

IT MATTERS NOT! THE OTHERS DID!

WE CHARGE YE WITH UNREPENTENT WITCHCRAFT... YE AND THE REST!

TO BE HUNG AT DAWN UPON THE GALLOWS HILLS! GOD BE WITH YE!

HE IS EVER WITH US, MY LORD...

"... 'TIS THY SOULS ... AND THE SOULS OF THESE MAD, MISGUIDED GIRLS I DO TRULY FEAR FOR!"

BACK! BACK, YOU DAMNABLE LEECH!

SO SAYS DOCTOR DOOM!

SURELY YOU JEST, DOOM!

CAN YOU NOT SEE HOW EVEN THE FORCE OF YOUR ATTACK IS IMMEDIATELY ABSORBED INTO MY BEING?

AND HURLED BACK AT YOU!!

FALL, VICTOR VON DOOM!

NO!!

DOOM CONTAINED THE RIDER'S BLAST-- BUT HOW LONG CAN HE KEEP IT UP?

AND IF HE CAN'T STOP THE RIDER... WHO CAN??

WE MUST HELP HIM, SPIDER-MAN!

WANDA! YOU SPEAK OF AIDING DOCTOR DOOM!

ONE OF THE MOST EVIL MEN ON EARTH!!

IF WE DON'T HELP HIM, MY DARLING--

--THERE MAY NOT *BE* ANY EARTH! NOT AS *WE* KNOW IT!

IF THE RIDER TRIUMPHS *HERE*... WHERE THERE IS NO POWER TO *STOP HIM*--

--WON'T THAT ALTER THE *FUTURE*? *OUR FUTURE*?

LADY, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE *RIGHT* OR *WRONG*--

--BUT *ME*... I'D RATHER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT DOOM IN THE *FUTURE*... WHERE THERE'S A *FANTASTIC FOUR* TO STOP HIM--

--THAN TAKE MY CHANCES ON THE *RIDER* GETTING AHOLD OF HIS POWERS IN THE *PAST*... WHERE THERE'S ONLY *US*!

I PRAY YOU ARE *RIGHT*, MY LOVE! I PRAY THAT IN AIDING *DOOM*--

-- WE ARE NOT WILLINGLY ASSISTING OUR OWN *DESTRUCTION*!

WE'RE *AVENGERS*, DARLING. WE DON'T *MATTER*--

--THE *FUTURE* DOES!

I *GO* THEN... TO *BATTLE*--

--AS AN *AVENGER*!

STILL WEAK FROM HER WOUND... THE SCARLET WITCH SLUMPS BACK AGAINST THE TRUNK OF A TREE...

...AND WATCHES HELPLESSLY AS THE BATTLE IS JOINED.

HEY! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE *AIMING* THOSE BURSTS OF YOURS, SMILEY!

THESE COSTUMES COST *MONEY*!

YOU SWUNG RIGHT IN ITS PATH--??

ALLOWING *DOOM* TO PENETRATE YOUR *DEFENSES*--

--AND *STRIKE*!

MY *THANKS*, SPIDER-MAN!

CAREFUL, DOC! DON'T SAY ANYTHING YOU MIGHT WANT TO TAKE BACK LATER!

I ATTACH LITTLE IMPORTANCE TO WORDS, MY FRIEND!

THEY HAVE DISTRACTED THE RIDER... BUT HE SHOWS NO SIGN OF WEAKENING UNDER THE ATTACK.

SO IT IS TIME THE VISION ENTERS THE FRAY!

WITH AN ATTACK OF HIS OWN!

ONE WOULD DO WELL NOT TO FORGET THE VISION, RIDER!

THE RED ONE!

I HAD FORGOTTEN--!

AS YOU ARE LEARNING!

FLAMES! FROM YOUR EYES!

ENGULFING ME!

I BURN!

YOU'VE STOPPED HIM VISION!

NO! HE IS NOT STOPPED!

HE-- HE'S LAUGHING!

LAUGHING THROUGH THE FLAMES!

HE SHRUGS THEM OFF!

AS IF ALL MY POWER WAS NOTHING!

NOTHING!!

NOTHING, INDEED, RED ONE!

WATCH... AS I TOY WITH YOUR STRENGTH! SHAPE IT TO MY WILL--

--AND HURL IT BACK AT YOU!!

STRIKE!!

VISION!!

HE IS FELLED BY HIS OWN POWER!

DO YOU SEE THE JEST, DOOM?

THERE IS NO STOPPING ME... FOR MY POWER IS YOURS!

BUT WHAT OF THE SCARLET WITCH? WHAT OF SHE WHO IS THE VISION'S... WIFE?

NO!

NO!!

MY LOVE ... NO!

THE WITCH DROPS... FROM SHOCK AS MUCH AS EXHAUSTION...

... BUT NOT BEFORE A HEX IS THROWN.

NOT BEFORE THE NIGHT ERUPTS IN MAGIC!

AARRRR

SHE DROPS... BUT NOT BEFORE SHE HAS AVENGED THE DEFEAT OF HER HUSBAND!!

HOW IN BLAZES AM I SUPPOSED TO TELL IF AN ANDROID'S ALIVE... OR DEAD??

IT MATTERS NOT... NOT IF WE ARE ALL SOON TO JOIN HIM!

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, DOOM!

IT ALWAYS MATTERS!

"SAVE YOUR MORALITY... AND YOUR STRENGTH... FOR THE RIDER, SPIDER-MAN -- OR YOU MAY HAVE NEITHER BEFORE THIS NIGHT IS DONE!"

YOU ARE A FOOL, DOOM!

I DO NOT KNOW WHY THE WITCH'S POWER HELD ME--

-- BUT THE INFUSION OF YOUR SCIENCE-CREATED POWER HAS RELEASED ME!

THE GAME IS DONE, DOOM!

IT IS NOW THE RIDER'S PLAY!!

HE IS FREE!

FREE!!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE--

--DOOM BEGINS TO SENSE THE MEANING OF THE WORDS... TOTAL DEFEAT!

BUT... PERHAPS NOT!

SPIDER-MAN! WE MUST STRIKE AS ONE! GIVE HIM NO CHANCE TO ATTACK!

ALL RIGHT, DOOM! I'LL TRY AGAIN--

--NOT THAT I THINK IT'LL DO ANY GOOD!

HI YO--

--SPIDER! AWAY!!

GOTCHA! RIGHT SMACK IN THE KISSER!

OKAY, DOOM! SOON AS I SWING OUT OF THE WAY--

-- IT'S ALL YOURS!

WHAT???

NOTHING! EVEN AT FULL POWER!

NOTHING!!

THEN IT IS DONE!

READY YOURSELF, DOOM!

FOR NOW THE RIDER CLAIMS HIS PRIZE!!

ZZAAKK

THE NIGHT IS GONE... DRIVEN BY A LIGHT BRIGHTER THAN THAT OF DAY...

...AND THE BATTLE IS DONE.

UNNHH! BLACKING OUT...

...CAN'T!

GOT TO STOP THE RIDER...

--OR WE'RE ALL FINISHED...

THE FIRST RAYS OF DAWN TINGE THE FALLEN FORMS ABOUT THE CLEARING... AND THE FIRST BREEZE OF DAY CATCHES THE ACRID STENCH THAT RISES FROM THE GIANT FIGURE OF THE DARK RIDER...

AND NOW THE GAME BEGINS ANEW!

MY GAME!

AND MAY THE FUTURE TREMBLE!

...THE STENCH OF DEATH... AND OF BRIMSTONE!

NEXT DEATH IN THE YEAR BEFORE YESTERDAY! OR ENTER MOONDRAGON!

MARVEL TEAM-UP

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

25¢ CC | 44 APR 02147

MARVEL TEAM-UP™

FEATURING

SPIDER-MAN™

AND

MOONDRAGON™

PLUS: GUEST STARS GALORE!

HURRY, SPIDER-MAN-- I CAN'T HOLD HIM OFF MUCH LONGER!

HANG ON, LADY! THE VISION AND I STILL HAVE TO FREE DR. DOOM!

BUT BEFORE YOU CAN DO THAT, YOU WILL DIE!

KANE & ADKINS

Stan Lee presents: SPIDEY,™ DR. DOOM,™ THE VISION,™ THE SCARLET WITCH...™
AND...NOW...ENTER: MOONDRAGON!™

DEATH IN THE YEAR BEFORE YESTERDAY!

THE STORM'S BEEN BREWING HIGH OVER MANHATTAN SINCE SUNDOWN... A ROLLING, LIGHTNING-SHOT MASS OF SEETHING DARKNESS THAT CARRIES IN IT IMAGES OF DESPAIR!

IMAGES THAT CALL OUT TO THE TITANESS MOONDRAGON... THAT SUMMON HER WITH ECHOES FROM THE PAST!

YOU'VE BEEN STANDING OUT HERE FOR HOURS, LADY--

--ALMOST AS IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING--

BAI

GROUNDS HUNT

JV 186

BILL MANTLO • WRITER
SAL BUSCEMA & MIKE ESPOSITO
ILLUSTRATORS
K. MANTLO • LETTERS J. COHEN • COLORS
MARV WOLFMAN • EDITOR

--OR IS SOMETHING LOOKING FOR *YOU?*

IRON MAN! I DID NOT HEAR YOU COME *UP!*

I... HAVE BEEN... *PREOCCUPIED!*

HAVE YOU BEEN HERE *LONG?*

LONG ENOUGH TO SEE THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY *BOTH-ERING* YOU.

BUT YOU DON'T SEEM TO WANT TO *TALK* ABOUT IT, SO I WON'T PRESS.

AVENGERS HAVE ALWAYS *RESPECTED* EACH OTHER'S RIGHT TO *PRIVACY.*

I JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THERE'S A *STORM* ON THE WAY.

I DISLIKE SEEMING SO DISTANT. YET, HOW COULD I *EXPLAIN--*

--ABOUT THE *DREAMS?!*

DREAMS WHICH HAVE *HAUNTED* ME SINCE WANDA AND THE VISION *VANISHED!*

*TEAM-UP #'S 42-43 -- MARV.

DREAMS THAT *CALL OUT* TO ME! THAT *PLEAD* WITH ME FOR *HELP!*

THAT MANIFEST THEMSELVES AS *PAIN!*

AND *STRIKE* AT ME THROUGH THE VERY *SOURCE* OF MY *POWER--!*

MY MIND!!

AND YET-- I SEEM TO FIND SURCEASE FROM SUFFERING--

--IF I ALLOW MYSELF TO FOLLOW THE VOICES THAT CALL WITHIN ME!

AND FOLLOW SHE DOES... DOWN THE DESERTED CORRIDORS OF AVENGERS' MANSION...

... TO A ROOM LIT BY AN EERILY-PULSING SPHERE OF LIGHT.

I... AM COME!

A SPHERE SHE SEES NOT AS THE MIND-PAIN SWEEPS OVER HER...

... THAT BEGINS TO DESCEND AS SHE SINKS TO THE COLD UNYIELDING FLOOR.

AND SHE WONDERS AS THE LIGHT SURROUNDS HER...

... WHY SHE HASN'T RESISTED...

... AND THE ONLY ANSWER SHE CAN CONJURE FORTH...

... IS THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR RESISTANCE, FOR SHE HAS SENSED NO DANGER IN THE SPHERE...

MERELY A CALL FOR HELP...

... LIKE A NOTE IN A BOTTLE...

...AFLOAT ON THE SEAS OF TIME...

... UNTIL WASHED UP ON THE FAR AND DISTANT SHORES OF...

I... AM NO LONGER IN THE AVENGERS' MANSION!

...THE PAST!

BUT WHERE, THEN, AM I?

AND WHAT IN THANOS' NAME IS THAT??

THE TITAN PRIESTESS STARES...

... BUT HER EYES OFFER NO EXPLANATION OF THE SCENE SHE SEES BEING ENACTED BEFORE HER.

A SCENE WHICH REVOLVES ABOUT THE PRONE FORMS OF TWO OF HER FELLOW AVENGERS... THE VISION AND HIS WIFE, THE SCARLET WITCH...

AND ABOUT TWO OTHER BEINGS SHE KNOWS FROM HER MIND-PROBES OF THE AVENGER'S FILES ... SPIDER-MAN AND THE DEADLY DOCTOR DOOM!

AND SHE DOES NOT NEED THE EXPANDED MIND-FORCE OF ONE BRED ON FAR TITAN TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE IN MORTAL DANGER!!

AH, MATHER... YOU ARE FORTUNATE! FEW MEN HAVE SERVED ME AS YOU HAVE... AND LIVED!

THOUGHT YOU TO EVER SEE SUCH POWER WHEN I SENT YOU FORTH FROM THIS MISERABLE SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY SALEM OF YOURS AS MY EMISSARY TO THE FUTURE?

YOUR MISSION WAS TO SEEK OUT THOSE WITH THE POWER OF WITCHCRAFT... AS YOU HAD SOUGHT THEM OUT IN YOUR OWN TIME--

-- AND TO RETURN THEM HERE TO ME! AND RETURN YOU DID--WITH THE SCARLET WITCH BORN TO DARK MAGIC AND DR. DOOM, WHOSE MOTHER PASSED THE BLACK ARTS TO HER SON! THEY CONTAIN POWER, MATHER--

-- POWER THE DARK RIDER CRAVES!

A POWER THAT WILL MAKE HIM MASTER OF ALL ETERNITY!!

BUT, OF COURSE, YOU COULD NOT POSSIBLY *UNDERSTAND*, COULD YOU, MATHER?

STILL, IT IS ONLY *FITTING* THAT, AS IT WAS *YOU* WHO PREACHED MY *COMING*--

-- YOU WHO UNLEASHED THE *WITCH-RIOTS* IN MY NAME--*

*BOY, IF YOU MISSED THE LAST TWO ISSUES ARE **YOU** GONNA BE SORRY **NOW**--MARV.

--THAT IT SHOULD BE *YOU*, COTTON MATHER, WHO PLUNGES THE *SOUL-BLADE* INTO THESE BEINGS!

AND AS IT *DRAWS* THEIR *LIVES* AND *POWERS* FROM THEM--

--IT WILL BE *YOU*, MATHER, WHO SHRIEKS THE *GLORY* AND COMING OF THE *DARK RIDER* TO THE *STARS!*

I...

THE BLADE *WAITS*, MATHER!

HEAR YOU NOT ITS LOW *MOANING?*

IT *HUNGERS*-- IT WILL NOT BE *DENIED!*

LORD OF *HOSTS...*

IT IS *TOO LATE* FOR THAT! *SLAY THEM!*

LET THE BLADE DRAW THEIR *STRENGTH!*

LET IT *FLOW* INTO *ME!*

FORGIVE *ME...*

FORGIVE *ME!!*

THE *BLADE!* IT-- IT *SCREAMS!*

HOLD! LET THAT BLADE FALL--

--AND YOU WILL KNOW THE MADNESS OF PSYCHIC DISRUPTION!

WHO DARES--?

I AM CALLED MOONDRAGON, BEING--

--FOR MINE IS A POWER THAT DEVOURS THE MIND!

AS HAS BEEN SAID BEFORE ...RAW, RAGING ENERGIES RIPPLE FROM HER SHAVEN SKULL...

...SOME VISIBLE...

...AND SOME NOT...

...BUT ALL EFFECTIVE!

YAARRRRRR

COWS, PIGS, AND WITCHES!

THE WORLD IS BESET BY DEVILS!

NEVER HAVE I FELT SUCH FORCE-- TEARING AT THE VERY FABRIC OF MY THOUGHTS!

IF THE POWER OF SUCH A ONE AS THIS COULD BE MINE--

--THE POWER OF THE RIDER WOULD THEN BE BOUNDLESS!

FOR ALL TIMES TO COME!!

AND WHILE THE RIDER IS THUS OCCUPIED...

HOO-BOY! WHAT HIT ME?

LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS THE RIDER POINTING A FINGER AT ME AN' DOOM--

--AND THEN WHAMMO! INSTANT OBLIVION!

WHOA, WEB-SLINGER! GO BACK A STEP! THIS IS SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS ... 1692!

THE YEAR OF THE SALEM WITCH-TRIALS!

THE RIDER SENT MATHER TO GET THE SCARLET WITCH-- THE VISION AND I FOLLOWED USING DOC DOOM'S TIME-PLATFORM--

--AND THEN DOOM HIMSELF FOLLOWED-- ONLY TO GET ZAPPED ALONG WITH THE REST OF US BY THAT WEIRDO WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE DARK RIDER!

AND AS IF ALL THAT WASN'T BAD ENOUGH -- I WAKE UP ON WHAT LOOKS SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE AN ALTAR--

--IN TIME TO SEE THE RIDER GET BLASTED BY A SIX-FOOT TALL BALD AMAZON!

SHE IS CALLED MOONDRAGON, SPIDER-MAN ... I -- I THINK SOME-HOW IT WAS I WHO SUMMONED HER--

--WITH MY LAST HEX-- BEFORE I COLLAPSED!

THE SAME WAY YOU WHISKED ME OUT OF FUN CITY TO DOOM'S CASTLE!* OKAY, LADY ... I'LL BUY THAT!

AND WHILE MOON-DRAGON KEEPS THE RIDER BUSY-- HOW 'BOUT IF WE WORK OUT A WAY TO FREE DOOM!

FREE...? OH!!

* TEAM-UP #42 --MARV.

YEP. DOOM'S GOT THE POWER THE RIDER WANTS--

--AND I'VE GOT ME A HUNCH THAT BUBBLE THE DOC'S FLOATING IN IS DRAINING OFF DOOM'S STRENGTH--

--AND FEEDING IT RIGHT INTO THE RIDER!

AND WE WERE TO BE NEXT! HOW CAN WE STOP A BEING--

--WHO CAN USE OUR OWN POWER TO DESTROY US ALL?

A GOOD QUESTION, THAT... THE PARAMETERS OF WHICH AN AVENGER CALLED MOONDRAGON IS EXPLORING AT THAT VERY INSTANT.

FALL, BLAST YOU!

WHY DON'T YOU FALL??

BECAUSE I AM THE RIDER, WOMAN--

--ONE WHO *RIDES* THE VERY *SEAS OF TIME!*

WHOSE VERY *POWER* AND *PURPOSE* IS SIMPLY TO *BE*--

--*ETERNALLY!*

-- AND *TO BE* I MUST DRAW MY POWER FROM *OTHERS*--

--AS I NOW DRAIN *YOURS!!*

*THE RAW ENERGY OF HER OWN MIND-BLAST WHIPS THROUGH HER... AND A SOUND WELLS UP IN HER THROAT *UNBIDDEN!*

MOONDRAGON SCREAMS!

AND AS THE FORCE WASHES OVER HER...

DIE, WOMAN!

DIE THAT I MAY *LIVE!!*

*...SHE BEGINS TO "SEE" WITHIN THE MIND OF THE BEING WITH WHOM SHE IS LOCKED IN MORTAL *COMBAT.*

SHE RIDES WITH HIM UPON THE CURRENTS OF THE *AGES...*

*...PAST JEWELLED *NEBULAE* AND HOLES AS BLACK AS *NIGHT...*

*...AND SHE SCREAMS AGAIN, THIS EARTH-BORN, ALIEN-BRED *AVENGER...*

*...AT A SIGHT NO *MORTAL* WAS EVER MEANT TO *SEE.*

HEREIN PLAYS A TALE WITHIN A TALE.

THE ORIGIN OF THE DARK RIDER, AND THE END OF THE AGE OF THE WIZARD-RACE.

ACT I: WHEREIN THEY BOUND THE DEMONS OF THEIR TIME... BUT IN SO DOING (BECAUSE OF THE MANNER IN WHICH IT WAS DONE)...

...THEY BECAME LIKE UNTO THE DEMONS THEMSELVES...

...MASTERS OF THE DARK PLACES OF SCIENCE, WITCHCRAFT... AND TIME, LOCKED AWAY IN BLACK TOWERS... RULING THE WORLDS AND LIFE-FORMS BELOW THEM...

...UNTIL THOSE LIFE-FORMS HAD HAD ENOUGH!

MOONDRAGON AND THE RIDER APPEAR TO BE IN THE THROES OF SOME FORM OF MIND-LOCK.

THEN THAT GIVES US OUR CHANCE TO GET DOOM OUT OF THIS FLOATING FISH-BOWL!

BUT WHAT OF MOONDRAGON?

HOW LONG CAN SHE BEAR THE FULL BRUNT OF THE RIDER'S ATTACK?

HOW LONG??

ACT II! THE TOWERS FELL... THE WIZARDS DIED...

...SAVE FOR ONE... THE STRONGEST... THE DARKEST... THE LORD OF THE TIME-STREAM INTO WHICH HE FLED...

...THE DARK RIDER!

AND THE WORLD HE LEFT WAS THE FIRST AGE OF MAN!

XX

END OF ACT.

THE ONLY WAY TO *STOP HIM*, LADY, IS TO CUT OFF THE *SOURCE* OF HIS *POWER!*

AND RIGHT NOW, THAT SOURCE IS *DOOM*--AND THE POWER OF *WITCH-CRAFT* DORMANT WITHIN HIM!

BUT *CAN* WE CHANGE *HISTORY*, VISION? *CAN* WE??

I DO NOT *KNOW*, SPIDER-MAN! AND THERE IS STILL *ANOTHER* ELEMENT ... ONE WHICH WE HAVE ALL *FORGOTTEN*--

--IF THE RIDER IS NOT *STOPPED*--AND *SOON*-- THEN JOHN PROCTOR AND THE OTHER ACCUSED *WITCHES* OF SALEM WILL *HANG*--*

--AND THERE WILL BE *NO WAY* FOR US TO *CHANGE THAT!*

*SEE HOW ALL THE LITTLE BITS FALL INTO *PLACE*?--MARV.

FOR SECONDS OR MOMENTS, TIME ITSELF IS *TENSED* AS THE BUBBLE *SHATTERS* BEFORE THE AWESOME *ASSAULT*...

...AND THEN MOON-DRAGON SCREAMS A *THIRD TIME* AS THE MIND-LOCK IS *BROKEN*...

...AND SHE *FALLS* TO HER KNEES ...HER MIND *REELING* BENEATH THE AWFUL WEIGHT OF *TIME*.

SHE'S *FALLEN!* THE RIDER HAS *BROKEN* HER!

IT'S UP TO *ME* THEN... TO GIVE THEM THE *DELAY* THEY NEED TO REVIVE *DOOM!*

AND I WILL NOT *FAIL!*

YOU HAVE FAILED *ALREADY*, WITCH!

I AM *PAST* THE FULLEST EXTENT OF *YOUR* POWER NOW--

-- I WILL MERELY *STRIP IT* FROM YOU AND ADD IT TO THE *REST!!*

WE HAVE SUCCEEDED, SPIDER-MAN.
DOOM IS FREE!
'CEPT HE'S DROPPIN' LIKE A STONE, VIZH!
WHAT IF WE'RE TOO LATE?!
SRAKK

THE WORDS HANG IN THE AIR, UNANSWERED, FOR AT THAT MOMENT THE VISION SEES...
NOW, WITCH... YOUR DEATH IS COME!!
NO!

...AND HE REACTS.
WANDA!!
LEAVE HER, RIDER!!!

--AND FACE ME INSTEAD!!
THE RED ONE!
HAVE YOU NOT YET LEARNED THAT YOUR POWERS ARE NO MATCH FOR MINE?!

OKAY, WEBHEAD -- WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
WE'RE CAUGHT IN THE PROVERBIAL PICKLE! THE RIDER'S BEATEN EVERY COMBINATION WE'VE THROWN AT HIM!
HOLD UP, PARKER! THAT'S IT!!
WE HAVEN'T ONCE TRIED TO HIT HIM ALL TOGETHER!

SO WE TRY THAT!
SOUP'S ON, DOOMSY-- WAKE UP!
'CAUSE IF YOU DON'T, THE RIDER'S GONNA SETTLE OUR HASH--
-- BUT GOOD!

C'MON, DOC! UP AN' AT 'EM!

SPIDER-MAN! THE DARK RIDER--?

STILL GOIN' STRONG, DOC! WE CAN'T STOP HIM!

PERHAPS... THE POWER-UNITS IN MY ARMOR HAVE HAD SUFFICIENT TIME TO RE-CHARGE.

NOW... WHAT IF DOOM WERE TO UTILIZE HIS LATENT POWER?

WHAT IF DOOM WERE TO TAKE THAT POWER OF WITCHCRAFT THAT THE RIDER SO SORELY CRAVES--

--AND USES IT!

STRAWH!

ATTABOY, DOC!

FANG-FACE IS TAKIN' THE HARD FALL!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS MILLENNIA SPANNING EXISTENCE, THE DARK RIDER SCREAMS... AND KNOWS THE MEANING OF PAIN.

NOW THE REST OF YOU-- HIT HIM!

AS A CERTAIN THUNDER GOD WOULD SAY, SPIDER-MAN--

-- SO BE IT!!

THE RIDER REELS...

...AND TURNS, SEEKING ESCAPE FROM THE VISION...

...ONLY TO BE STRUCK FROM ANOTHER SOURCE...

SSSZAM!

...THE SCARLET WITCH.

HOW DOES IT FEEL, RIDER--

-- TO BE HUMBLED AS YOU HAVE HUMBLED OTHERS?

OKAY, LADY-- IT'S YOUR TURN!

STILL...WEAK-- BUT IF I MAY BORROW SOME OF YOUR MIND-FORCE TO ADD TO MY OWN...

YOU GOT IT-- JUST BE SURE TO GIVE IT BACK, HUH?

IF I SURVIVE-- YOU SHALL HAVE IT, SPIDER-MAN!

TURN, RIDER--

--FOR THIS BLAST IS MEANT FOR YOU--

--TO REPAY YOU FOR THE OBSCENITIES I WAS MADE TO WITNESS AS I SOJOURNED WITHIN YOUR MEMORY!

NNOOOOOOOOO

YOU DID IT, BALDY!

THE RIDER HAS FALLEN.

BLAZING AUREOLAS OF FORCE LASH ACROSS THE DOWNED FORM OF THE DARK RIDER...

...AND COTTON MATHER STARES INTO THE HEART OF THE INFERNO...

...WHICH, IN SECONDS, BECOMES NAUGHT BUT COOLING ASH.

MASTER...?

HE IS GONE, MATHER. THE DARK RIDER IS NO MORE.

AND I'VE GOT A KING-SIZED HEAD-ACHE!

WHAT'D YOU DO, LADY?

IT WILL PASS, SPIDER-MAN!

BAH! I HAVE HAD ENOUGH! I WILL RETURN TO MY OWN ERA AND PONDER ON WHAT I HAVE SEEN--

--USING THE TIME-CIRCUITRY I HAVE INCORPORATED INTO MY ARMOR!

FAREWELL, MY COMPANIONS--

--WHEN NEXT WE MEET--

--IT WILL BE AS FOES!

Y'KNOW-- A WHILE BACK, DOOM OFFERED THAT ME AN' HIM SHOULD BE PARTNERS--*

--AND EVERY TIME I THINK ABOUT HOW I JOKED MY WAY OUT OF IT--

--I GET THE WORST CASE OF THE SHAKES!

*SPIDER-MAN #5-- MARV.

SPIDER-MAN! ARE YOU NOT RETURNING WITH US?

NOPE. SEND THE PLATFORM BACK FOR ME, VIZH-- AND SET IT FOR NEW YORK SO I DON'T HAVE TO THUMB IT ACROSS THE ATLANTIC--

--'CAUSE I HAVE TO SEE IF I CAN HELP THOSE POOR JOKERS BACK IN SALEM!

WE WISH YOU LUCK, MY FRIEND!

THANKS, VIZH -- I CAN USE IT!

AND A SHORT SWING LATER...

TOWN'S QUIET!

TOO QUIET FOR A PLACE THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE TURNING OVER EVERY ROCK TO LOOK FOR WITCHES!

UNLESS THEY FIGURED THEY'D GOT 'EM ALL!

I'D BETTER HEAD FOR THE JAIL! SEE IF--

WAIT! WHAT-- WHAT'S THAT??

OH...

OH LORD.

THE FIGHT TOOK TOO LONG.

I'M TOO LATE...

...TOO LATE!

BLAST YOU, RIDER! BLAST YOU!

SALEM HUNG ITS WITCHES ...AT LEAST SOME OF THEM ...ON 19 AUGUST, 1692.

HISTORY MAKES NO MENTION OF A BATTLE THAT WAS FOUGHT IN A CLEARING A LITTLE WAYS OUTSIDE OF SALEM...AND PUBLIC OUTRAGE AT THE EXCESSES OF THE WITCH-RIOTS CAST COTTON MATHER INTO DISFAVOR...NEVER TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY AGAIN ...SO HE WAS NOT BELIEVED WHEN HE TOLD OF IT. INDEED, BECAUSE OF HIS RAVINGS, MEN THOUGHT HIM MAD.

HISTORY MADE THIS TIME TO SEEM A NIGHTMARE... AND MAN SOON FORGETS HIS DREAMS.

NEXT KILLRAVEN WARRIOR OF THE WORLDS! DON'T MISS IT!

STILL ONLY 25¢

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™ 45 MAY CC 02147

MARVEL TEAM-UP™

FEATURING

SPIDER-MAN

AND

KILLRAVEN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE WAR OF THE WORLDS HAS NEVER BEEN WILDER!

SPIDEY BATTLES THE MARTIANS IN THE MOST EARTH-SHAKING STRUGGLE OF ALL!

YOU'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOURSELF IF YOU FAIL TO READ--

FUTURE-SHOCK!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: SPIDEY™ AND KILLRAVEN™ --TOGETHER!

JV 22!

Future-Shock!

"'WOULD YOU TELL ME, PLEASE, WHICH WAY I OUGHT TO GO FROM HERE?'
'THAT DEPENDS A GOOD DEAL ON WHERE YOU WANT TO GET TO,' SAID THE CAT.
'I DON'T MUCH CARE WHERE--' SAID ALICE.
'THEN IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH WAY YOU GO,' SAID THE CAT."
--ALICE IN WONDERLAND.

SHAKE YOURSELF OUT OF THIS, LOONEY-TUNE, PARKER!

THERE WASN'T ANYTHING YOU COULD'VE DONE TO KEEP THOSE PEOPLE FROM BEING HANGED--* HISTORY'D WRITTEN THEM OFF LONG AGO!

SO WHY DOESN'T THAT MAKE ME FEEL ANY BETTER?

STORY: BILL MANTLO
ART: SAL BUSCEMA, MIKE ESPOSITO
LETTERS: JEAN IZZO
COLORS: GEORGE ROUSSOS
EDITOR: MARV WOLFMAN

*AS RECOUNTED IN THE LAST FOUR ISSUES. SHAME ON YOU IF YOU MISSED 'EM -- Marv.

WELL, WELL-- IF IT ISN'T LAUGHING-BOY **MATHER** HIMSELF!*

WHAT'S **WRONG**, COTTON-- RUN OUT OF **HUMAN SACRIFICES** TO YOUR GREAT GOD **EGO**?

*COTTON MATHER SERVED AS THE EMISSARY OF THE **DARK RIDER**, DEFEATED LAST ISH...

...AND IT **LOOKS** AS IF THE SIGHTS HE WAS MADE TO **WITNESS** HAVE DRIVEN HIM QUITE... **MAD**--

MARV.

WISH I COULD FEEL **SORRY** FOR YOU, MATHER, 'CAUSE FROM WHAT I REMEMBER OF **COLONIAL HISTORY**--

--YOU'RE GONNA HAVE A **HARD TIME** OF IT IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS!

BUT THEN AGAIN-- I PROBABLY WON'T FEEL **TOO** SORRY--

-- BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH THE **RIDER** SUPPLIED YOU WITH THE **MEANS** TO DO WHAT YOU **DID**--

--IT WAS **YOU** AND YOUR CRUMMY SUPERSTITIOUS **IGNORANCE** THAT SUPPLIED THE **MOTIVATION**!

TA-TAA, CHUCKLES, YOU'VE MADE YOUR **OWN** HELL--

--AND, PERSONALLY, I HOPE YOU **STEW IN IT**!

THE STORM THAT HAS BEEN HOVERING OVERHEAD **UNLEASHES** ITS FURY LIKE A CALL TO **JUDGMENT**...

...AND COTTON MATHER **SHRIEKS** LIKE A SOUL LOST IN THE **NIGHT**.

NOT THAT THE STORM-- OR ANYTHING **ELSE** FOR THAT MATTER-- **NOTICES**.

NOR DOES IT NOTICE A GRIM FIGURE CLINGING TO A GLOWING PLATFORM AS IT BUFFETS AND TOSSES THEM BOTH LIKE A TOY BOAT ON THE OCEAN OF TIME.

MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE RETURNED WITH THE VISION--

--'CAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE I TRADED IN THE EXPRESS TRIP FOR THE LOCAL!

HUMOR.

IT NEVER QUITE SEPARATES US FROM OUR SITUATIONS.

IT ONLY MAKES THEM ACHE A LITTLE LESS.

AND SPIDEY DISCOVERS THAT TIME DOESN'T "MARCH ON"... CONTRARY TO THE VOICE OF WALTER WINCHELL.

IT'S MORE LIKE AN ENORMOUS LOOM WHEREIN THE PAST IS DELICATELY INTERWOVEN WITH THE PRESENT.

...AND ALL EVENTS ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED...

THAT-- THAT'S NEW YORK!

BUT SO IS THAT!!

...SO THAT WHEN SOMETHING CATASTROPHIC OCCURS...

...WE DO NOT HAVE TO LOOK TOO HARD TO FIND ITS ORIGINS IN THE PAST...

...OR IN THE FUTURE.

WHERE AM--?

UNNHHH!

STORM MUST'VE DERAILED THE TIME PLATFORM!

BUT HAVE I OVERSHOT MY OWN TIME--

--OR IS THIS EVEN FURTHER BACK THAN SALEM?

I'D BETTER HOP BACK ON AND TRY AGAIN BEFORE--

WHAT IN BLAZES--?!

HOO HAH! YOU SHOULDN'T ASK, SPIDEY.

YOU SHOULDN'T ASK!

THOSE TRIPOD-THINGIES I SAW FROM THE PLATFORM--

--TRYIN' TO FLASH FRY SOME GUY HEADIN' FULL-TILT TOWARDS ME ON HORSEBACK-- OR WHATEVER THAT FOUR-LEGGED BEASTIE IS.

BOY--CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT JOLLY JONAH WOULD SAY IF HIS FAVORITE PHOTOGRAPHER CAME IN WITH SNAPSHOTS OF THIS?

YEAH--HE'D PROBABLY SAY--

--"PARKER, YOU'RE FIRED!"

SKREE!

YOU STAND IN THE PATH OF BOTH THE MARTIANS AND MYSELF, FRIEND-- CAUGHT BEFORE THE BLASTER AND THE BEAST!

YET, I SENSE THAT YOU'RE A MAN BENEATH THAT COSTUME-- NOT A STINKING MARTIAN-MUTATE-- SO I'LL NOT RIDE YOU DOWN!

SKREE!

WILL YOU STAND WITH ME-- HELP ME TURN THE DEVILS?

WILL YOU FIGHT BESIDE KILLRAVEN!!?

IT TAKES PRECISELY ONE-TENTH OF A SECOND FOR SPIDEY TO FIGURE OUT HIS ANSWER--HIS EYES GOING FROM THE FIGURE ON THE FROTHING SERPENT-STALLION TO THE GLEAMING DEATH MACHINES THAT STALK HIM...

...AND LESS THAN THAT TIME TO ACT!

I'M WITH YOU, RED--

--EVEN THOUGH I HAVEN'T GOT THE FOGGIEST IDEA OF WHAT'S GOING ON!

BUT NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN LET HIMSELF BE STOPPED BY CONFUSION!

MY APOLOGIES AT NOT HAVING TIME TO FIGURE THAT OUT, FRIEND--

--BUT UNTIL I CAN PUT THIS RUIN BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE TRIPODS!

STRAKK!

WHICH RUINS?

WELL, THEY WERE THERE A MOMENT AGO!

A CERTAIN CARMILLA FROST OFTEN SAYS THAT I LACK STRATEGY-- BUT I FEEL I SHOULD SUGGEST OUR NEXT MANUEVER--

--RUN!

SKREEE!

HMMM. NO-- I DON'T THINK RUNNING'S THE ANSWER--

--NOT WHEN A SQUIRT OF WEBBING TO ONE OF THAT THING'S LIMBS--

SKREEE!

--PLUS A LITTLE BIT OF SPIDER-STRENGTH PULLING ON A STRESS-POINT WITH JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF LEVERAGE--

--CAN DO WONDERS FOR EVENING UP THE ODDS!

YOU'VE TOPPLED IT!

AND NOW IT'S ***MY*** TURN!

I'VE HAMMERED IN THESE PLEXIGLASS ***SHIELDS*** BEFORE--

--ALTHOUGH IT WAS THE HELLISH ***SKAR*** WHO STARED BACK ***OUT*** AT ME--

--NOT SOME SNIVELING ***SLAVE*** OF THE MARTIAN ***OVERLORDS***--

-- RENOUNCING ***HIS*** HUMANITY FOR THE ***REWARD*** OF HUNTING OTHERS ***MORE*** HUMAN THAN ***HIMSELF!***

NICE ***SPEECH,*** RED-- BUT HE'S ***STILL*** POINTING HIS ***FIENDISH-THINGY*** ATCHA--

--SO PARDON ME IF I ***INTERRUPT*** LONG ENOUGH TO DIVERT HIS ***ATTENTION!***

MY ***THANKS,*** FRIEND--

AARRGGH!

IF I HAD ANY LINGERING ***DOUBTS*** ABOUT OUR ***ALLIANCE,*** MY FRIEND--

--ALLOW ME TO ***APOLOGIZE!***

I'D ***SKIP IT*** IF I WERE ***YOU,*** RED--

UNLESS YOU WANT TO WIND UP A *TOASTED POP-TART* BY HIS *BUDDIES!*

SKREE!

THE TRIPODS COME ON... THEIR *BANSHEE-WAILS* PIERCING THE SKY AND *SEARING* THE EARTH...

...BUT SPIDEY AND KILLRAVEN HAVE *LEARNED* HOW TO *FIGHT* THESE THINGS.

NO SENSE KNOCKIN' MYSELF *OUT* TRYING TO SMASH THIS WALKING *ERECTOR-SET!*

NOT WHEN IT'S *EASIER* TO LAUNCH MYSELF *UP--*

--AND GET TO THE *"BRAINS"* OF THE OPERATION!

PEEKABOO, CROME-DOME--

RRIIPP!

--HIDE-'N'-SEEK IS *OVER,* CHUM!

AND YOU'RE IT!!

WRAM!

TIMMMBBBEERRR!

KRAKA-RAM!

NOW TO CHECK OUT HOW THIS K.R. DUDE'S--

UH-OH!

"LOOKS LIKE RED'S GONNA NEED SOME HELP!"

FIRE, SLAVE SCUM!

BUT IF YOU STOP, KILLRAVEN WILL BE THERE WAITING!

"IF" IT STOPS!

FAT CHANCE! AND I'M TOO FAR OFF TO--

AH HAH! JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED!

HEADS UP, PAL! SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH THIS!

YOU'D BE SURPRISED FRIEND--

--AT THE EFFECT OF PHOTONUCLEAR FIRE POWER!!

KA-TROOM

IT MAKES QUITE A SPLASH, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!

SEE WHAT I MEAN!

YEP. QUITE A SPLASH!

NOW, WHILE THOSE WHO WOULD HAVE SLAIN US FRY IN THEIR OWN JUICES--

--I THINK IT'S TIME WE BECAME ACQUAINTED!

I AM KILLRAVEN, LEADER OF THE FREEMEN!

AND I BELIEVE YOU CALLED YOURSELF-- SPIDER-MAN?

YEAH--ONLY I DON'T THINK *THAT* MATTERS SO MUCH AS-- *WHERE AM I?*

AND *WHEN* AM I?

YOU DON'T *KNOW?* NO, I CAN *SEE* YOU DON'T. THIS IS THE YEAR *2019*, FRIEND--

"--JUST *EIGHTEEN YEARS* SINCE THE *SECOND* MARTIAN INVASION OF *EARTH!*

"UNLIKE THE *FIRST*--THIS ONE WAS A *SUCCESS!*

"MANKIND WAS ALL BUT *EXTERMINATED*, THOUGH SOME OF THE *YOUTH*-- ONE *JON RAVEN* AMONG THEM-- WERE TAKEN CAPTIVE BY MARTIAN-DOMINATED HUMAN *KEEPERS*...

"...TO BE TRAINED FOR THE *GLADIATORIAL PENS* FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF OUR *'MASTERS'*. THERE JON RAVEN BECAME *KILLRAVEN.*

"SOME *ESCAPED*... AS DID *OTHERS*... AND WANDERING BANDS OF REBELLIOUS *FREEMEN* FORMED TO FIGHT FOR THE LIBERATION OF *EARTH*...

"...OR FOR PERSONAL *REVENGE.*

"EACH HAD REASONS OF HIS OR HER *OWN*... REASONS WHICH UNITED US IN A COMMON *HATRED* OF THE *MARTIANS!*" *

*AS CHRONICLED IN *AMAZING ADV.*--BEGINNING WITH ISSUE #18 -- MARV.

WHAT ARE YOU *SAYING*, MAN-- THAT IT'S ALL GONNA *END?!* THAT *NOTHING* WE DO MATTERS BECAUSE IN THIRTY YEARS TIME THE *MARTIANS* ARE GONNA GRIND IT ALL INTO *PASTE..?*

THAT *ME*, THE PEOPLE I *LOVE*, MY *WORLD*--NONE OF IT'S WORTH *BEANS?!*

THEN WHAT IN *HEAVEN'S* NAME IS THE POINT OF *LIVING? OF CARING? OF ANYTHING!?!*

YOU ASK QUESTIONS I *CANNOT* ANSWER, SPIDER MAN... INDEED, *WHO* CAN SAY THERE *IS* AN ANSWER...

I *MOURN* A LOST PAST, YOU A *SHATTERED FUTURE*, NEITHER OF US *REALLY KNOWING* IF ONE RELATES TO THE *OTHER.*

I ONLY KNOW THAT NOTHING IS *CERTAIN*, MY FRIEND--NOT PAST, NOT *FUTURE*--AND IF LIFE DOES HAVE ANY *POINT* AT ALL, IT IS BOUND UP BY THE *LIVING* OF IT...

MEMORY CLOUDS THE *PRESENT*... A DESPERATE *NOW* IN WHICH *DANGER* LURKS IN EVERY *SHADOW*...

...AND THOUGH WARNING DOES COME OF IT...

...IT COMES TOO LATE.

WHRRRRRR!

WAIT! MY SPIDER SENSE TINGLING--!

WHAT IS IT, SPIDER-MAN? WHAT'S--

--WRONG??

GRAPPLES SNAKE OUT ON TENSILE-STEEL CABLES, WHIRLING AND WRAPPING THEMSELVES LIKE SERPENTS ABOUT THEIR NECKS...

...AND A STUD IS PRESSED, RELEASING GAS FROM CANISTERS THE MASKED FIGURES WEAR AT THEIR BACKS...

...GAS WHICH IS INESCAPABLE... ALL-PERVASIVE...

NO TIME TO HOLD MY BREATH--!

...AND, IN THE END, OVERPOWERING.

THE GAS HAS SUBDUED THEM!

WE HAVE CAPTURED THE GREAT KILLRAVEN-- AND ANOTHER OF HIS ACCURSED FREE HUMANS!

WE WILL RANK HIGH IN THE EYES OF THE OVERLORDS!

BUT, CLOSED WITHIN THEMSELVES...

...BOTH THE SUPER-HERO FROM THE PRESENT AND THE WARRIOR FROM THE FUTURE DRIFT... CAUGHT IN THE THROES OF A DEADLY DOUBLE DREAM.

COLD! THE STARS CIRCLE ABOUT ME AS IF I COULD REACH OUT AND TOUCH THEM!

AND THE FACT THAT THEY ATTEMPT TO FIGHT THE DREAM DOES NOT MAKE ITS EFFECT ANY EASIER ON THEM.

EYES-- STARING AT ME!

FAMILIAR EYES! I SHOULD KNOW THEM! BUT WHO!

I'M DROPPING ONTO SOME *AMORPHOUS* YIELDING *SURFACE!*

AND I'LL WAGER IT'S A *SOFTNESS* THAT HIDES *DANGER!*

A SOFTNESS WITHIN THIS *PLACE--*

I FREAKIN' DON'T *BELIEVE IT!*

THE *EYES* PULL A FADE-OUT--AND I PLOP DOWN ONTO A GIANT *SPIDER-WEB!*

--OR WITHIN *MYSELF!*

STICK WITH THE *SECOND GUESS*, RED!

VOLCANA ASH!??

BUT YOU'RE WITH *ADAM* AND *EVE* SEARCHING FOR YOUR *SISTER!**

**AMAZING ADVENTURES #31 -- MARV.*

YECCH! I WONDER IF THIS IS SOME-BODY'S IDEA OF A *JOKE?*

OR MAYBE IT'S MY *OWN* IDEA!

JUST GOES TO SHOW WHAT KIND OF *NIGHTMARES* YOU'VE GOT FLOATIN' AROUND *INSIDE* OF YOU, WALL-CRAWLER!

HOW COULD I BE WITH *THEM* WHEN I'M OBVIOUSLY *HERE*, RED?

I MEAN... YOU *ARE* IN TROUBLE, AREN'T YOU?

YOU *DO* NEED ME, DON'T YOU?

WITHOUT WORDS, HE REACHES FOR THE SOFTNESS...

I WOULDN'T *WORRY* TOO MUCH *ABOUT IT*, PARKER--

--BECAUSE *THIS* NIGHTMARE IS GOING TO BE YOUR *LAST!*

THAT VOICE! I KNOW THAT VOICE!

...BUT THE SOFTNESS IS GONE.

YOU DO NEED ME, RED?

REPLACED BY THE HARD EDGE OF...

...FIRE!

DON'T YOU NEED ME TO DESTROY YOU!!?

WITCH! IF YOU THINK I'LL--

NO! WHAT AM I SAYING??

YOU'RE NOT HER! YOU CAN'T BE HER!

YOU CAN'T!!

WHY NOT, RED?

HOW MUCH DID YOU EVER REALLY FIND OUT ABOUT ME?

ABOUT ANYONE?

OR HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN TOO BUSY WITH YOUR PRECIOUS REVOLUTION TO CARE?

OF COURSE YOU KNOW IT, PARKER!

DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD EVER FORGET--

--THE GREEN GOBLIN!!?

NO! NORMAN OSBORN IS DEAD! HIS SON HARRY IS CURED!

YOU CAN'T BE EITHER OF THEM!

NO? WHO AM I THEN?

I DON'T KNOW! I--

FWUMP!

YOU AND YOUR BLASTED TRICKS, GOBLIN! I CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT WITH--

LIAR!!

THE *REAL* VOLCANA IS AS *COMMITTED* TO OVERTHROWING THE MARTIANS AS *I* AM!

YOU'RE THAT *SURE*, ARE YOU RED--

--THAT YOU'LL LET *FLY* WITH YOUR *SWORD*--

--SENDING IT AT ONE YOU... WELL *LOVE* IS SUCH AN *AWKWARD* WORD-- LET'S SAY... *ADMIRE*?

STRAIGHT?

C'MERE, GOBBY-- I JUST FIGURED YOU *OUT*!

NO! WHAT ARE YOU--?

JUST *PROVING* THAT YOU'RE NOT THE *REAL* GOBLIN!

YOU'RE *THAT FREE* OF *DOUBT*, RED?

YES! THERE ARE THINGS ON WHICH I'D STAKE MY *LIFE! FREEDOM*, FOR INSTANCE... AND *HUMANITY*--

--AND THE BELIEF THAT *YOU* ARE NOT *VOLCANA!*

MAYBE THAT YOU'RE NOT "*REAL*" AT *ALL!*

GO *AHEAD* THEN, WALL CRAWLER! TAKE OFF MY *MASK!*

AND I HOPE THE TRUTH *KILLS YOU!*

THE SWORD BITES DEEP.

HE HEARS IT BITING.

RED...?

AND HE HEARS HER BEGIN TO SCREAM...

...A LONG, DRAWN-OUT BANSHEE WAIL THAT HE'S HEARD SO MANY TIMES BEFORE...

OH... MY... GOD.

IS SOMETHING WRONG, PETER? DIDN'T YOU SUSPECT?

AFTER ALL, HASN'T EVERYONE YOU'VE EVER KNOWN TURNED AGAINST YOU AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER?

YOUR UNCLE BEN-- YOUR PARENTS--BETTY BRANT--HARRY--MR. OSBORN--GWEN--

--ME?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, PETEY? DON'T YOU EXPECT IT BY NOW?

...AND HE SEES HER FALL.

FOR A MOMENT THE DOUBT RETURNS.

VOLCANA...?

NO! YOU'RE NOT MARY JANE!

YOU'RE SOMETHING INSIDE OF ME!

SOMETHING I'VE HELD DOWN SINCE THE DAY I STOOD BY AND LET UNCLE BEN GET MURDERED.

BUT ONLY FOR A MOMENT.

WHAM!

AS I ONCE TOLD SKAR-- MY CAUSE IS JUST--

--AND IT IS BELIEF IN IT THAT SUSTAINS ME!

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A STINKING, LINGERING DOUBT--

--AND I'VE COME TOO FAR TO PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THAT PART OF MY PAST!

THE NIGHTMARE IS... OVER.

YOURS TOO, HUH?

MUST'VE BEEN THE GAS THAT THEY SPRAYED AT US... SOME KIND OF HALLUCINOGEN!

BUT WHAT THEY DIDN'T COUNT ON WAS--THAT WHILE WE WERE FIGHTING OURSELVES--

--WE'D ALSO BE CAPABLE OF FIGHTING THEM!

WE BEAT THEM IN OUR SLEEP!

AND THE SWORD THAT WAS MEANT FOR VOLCANA--

--LIES HERE IN THE CORPSE OF MY TRUE ENEMY!

WE HAVE FOUGHT WELL TOGETHER, SPIDER-MAN!

THERE'S A WAR HERE, AS YOU HAVE SEEN. MY FREEMEN WOULD WELCOME YOU.

THANKS, RED-- BUT NO THANKS.

THERE'S WAY TOO MANY **LOOSE ENDS** BACK WHERE I COME FROM FOR ME TO EVER **PRETEND** THAT I COULD **FORGET THEM!**

I DON'T EVEN **KNOW** IF I'LL BE **ABLE** TO GET BACK, KILLRAVEN--

-- BUT I'VE GOT TO **TRY!**

FROM WHAT **LITTLE** YOU HAVE **SAID,** MY FRIEND, I GET A SENSE OF A **PAST** I CANNOT **UNDERSTAND--**

--A TIME WHEN THERE WAS NO **WAR**-- NO **MARTIANS**--

--A TIME THAT DOES NOT **EXIST** IN MY MEMORY!

THEN **MAKE** IT EXIST, **KR!** YOU'RE DOIN' **FINE** SO FAR!

JUST DON'T **GIVE UP** UNTIL THEY GIVE BACK EVERYTHING THEY'VE **STOLEN** FROM YOU--

--**INCLUDING THE PAST!**

SO LONG, RED! I'LL DROP YOU A **POST CARD**--

-- IF I **MAKE IT!**

THE AIR **SHIMMERS** OVER THE RED-MANED WARRIOR OF THE **WORLDS...**

--AND THEN IT IS **CLEAR** AGAIN, LEAVING NO **SENSE** THAT IT HAD EVER BEEN **DISPLACED.**

THERE ARE MANY **PASTS,** THINKS KILLRAVEN, MANY **PRESENTS...** AND THE **FUTURE,** FOR ALL MEN, IS **DIFFERENT.**

A **LEGEND** IN HIS OWN TIME **TURNS...** AND GOES TO CONTEMPLATE A LEGEND OF **ANOTHER.**

NEXT: **DEATHLOK, THE DEMOLISHER!**

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SPIDER-MAN

AND

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FRENZY IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE!

THE BATTLE YOU DEMANDED--THE WEB-SLINGER VERSUS THE DEMOLISHER!

THE CRUCIAL QUESTION IS... "AM I NOW... OR HAVE I EVER BEEN?" THE ANSWER WILL ASTONISH YOU!

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...AM I NOW or HAVE I EVER BEEN?

FUTURE SHOCK: PART II

"IT'S NO USE TALKING ABOUT IT," ALICE SAID... "I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE TO GET THROUGH THE LOOKING-GLASS AGAIN... AND THERE'D BE AN END OF ALL MY ADVENTURES!'"
--THROUGH THE LOOKING-GLASS

EXTANT PROBABILITY OF SYSTEMS-PERIL: 96.005%...RESULTING FROM UNEXPLAINED ENERGY-PRINTOUT IN THIS SECTOR.

YEAH? WELL YOU JUST KEEP *TRACKIN'* IT, 'PUTER!

TIMES SQUARE'S BEEN *CRAWLIN'* WITH MUTIES AND CANNIBALS EVER SINCE RYKER'S GOONS STARTED LOSIN' THEIR *GRIP* ON THE CITY AWHILE BACK! *

AN' I WANT TO MAKE SURE I GET *THEM* BEFORE THEY GET *ME!*

TIMES SQUARE! THEN THAT MEANS I'M BACK IN *NEW YORK* AGAIN!

BUT *WHEN??*

AND WHO'S THIS *JOKER*--AND WHY'S HE *TALKING* TO HIMSELF?

* FOR A FULL ACCOUNT OF DEATHLOK'S ADVENTURES, SEE *ASTONISHING TALES* 33-36 --MARV.

OR *IS* HE? HE SEEMS TO BE GETTING *ANSWERS* FROM SOMEWHERE!

NONE OF THIS MAKES ANY *SENSE!* THE RUINS SEEM *NEWER* THAN THOSE OF *KILLRAVEN'S TIME--**

--LESS *VEGETATION* GROWING UP THROUGH THE *RUBBLE!* BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T TELL ME *WHEN--*

TARGET PINPOINTED.

YEAH.

**LAST ISH--MARV.*

UH OH! UGLY'S TURNING MY *WAY!* ALMOST AS IF HE *SENSES* ME WITHOUT *SEEING* ME!

AND SINCE I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS *GAME* IS YET--

--I'D BETTER *REMOVE* MY LITTLE SPIDER-SELF FROM THE LINE OF *FIRE--*

--AND KEEP A WATCH ON GLAMOUR-PUSS FROM *ABOVE!*

I *HEAR* 'EM 'PUTER-- OUT IN THE *PLAZA!*

AFFIRMATIVE. MODULATION OF CHANTING ESTABLISHES TARGET-COUNT AT SEVENTEEN.

NO *SWEAT,* 'PUTER--

--AS LONG AS NONE OF 'EM ARE *ARMED!*

HE'S POINTING THAT *PISTOL* OF HIS OUT TOWARDS THE *STREET!*

BUT AT *WHAT?* I'VE GOT TO *SEE* WHAT HE'S *AIMING* AT BEFORE I--

AND WHAT SPIDEY SEES IS...

..."KIDS! HE'S GONNA WIPE OUT A BUNCH OF KIDS!!"

TIMES SQUARE

TIONAL CITY BANK

NO WAY, MAN!

I DON'T CARE WHERE I AM-- OR WHAT YEAR THIS IS--

--GUNNING DOWN KIDS JUST DOESN'T MAKE IT-- ANY TIME!

...ALERT. DANGER FROM...

NO WAY!!

WHO IN BLAZES--?

...ABOVE. REPEAT...DANGER FROM ABOVE...

AT THE SOUND OF BATTLE, THE KIDS TURN.

WIDE-EYED AND STARING...THEY LOOK...

...BUT IT CAN'T TRULY BE SAID THAT THEY SEE.

THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE AT WORK HERE. SOMETHING VAGUE--

--DISASSOCIATED FROM REALITY. SOMETHING LILTING ETHEREALLY THROUGH THE RUINED CANYON OF 42nd STREET--

--AS ONE OF THE YOUTHS BEGINS TO CHANT.

SORRY IF I LOUSED UP YOUR *AIM*, PAL--

--BUT *SNIPERS* NEVER RATED VERY HIGH ON MY *TOP TEN!*

NOW SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME WHAT ALL THIS IS *ABOUT*-- AND WHERE I *AM*-- BEFORE--

YOU *IDIOT!* THEY'VE *SPOTTED* US!

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF *SECONDS* BEFORE--

THE CHANTING *STOPS*. THE PLAZA IS *SILENT*.

LIFE, OF A SORT, BEGINS TO ANIMATE THE BLANK STARES OF THE YOUTHS.

LIFE... AND SOMETHING *ELSE*--!

ALERT. DESTRUCTION IMMINENT. DELAY MAY BE FATAL TO SYSTEM.

TOO LATE! GET *OFF* ME!

KRAMM!

OBOY! HE TOSSED ME OFF LIKE A DOG SHAKES HIS *FLEAS!*

AND WHAT I THOUGHT WAS SOME KIND OF METAL *SUIT*-- IS *HIM!*

OKAY, WEBHEAD, NOW WHAT YOU GOTTA FIND OUT IS--IS HE A *MAN*--OR A *ROBOT*?... OR *BOTH*!?

STILL GOT A *CHANCE!* IF I CAN REACH MY *LASER*--

ALERT... ALERT...

AN EMOTION IS NOW APPARENT ON THE YOUNG FACES... AN *EMOTION* THAT IS OVERWHELMING--

--SUBJUGATING *REASON*. OVERSHADOWING *FEAR*. THE *CUBES* IN THEIR CLENCHED FISTS BLAZE *BRILLIANTLY*... FED BY THE EMOTION.

AND THE EMOTION IS HATE!

WHAT KIND OF A NUT ARE YOU, FELLA?

OR DO YOU GET YOUR JOLLIES KILLING DEFENSE-LESS KIDS?

DEFENSELESS? YOU'D BETTER LOOK AGAIN, PAL!

THEN TELL ME WHY YOU'RE SO EAGER TO COMMIT SUICIDE-- AN' WHY YOU WANT TO TAKE ME ALONG WITH YOU!

SUICIDE--?

GOOD LORD! THE KIDS--!!

THE MUTIES, YOU MEAN! GET YOUR-SELF AN EYEFUL, CHUM--

--'CAUSE ONCE THEY CHARGE THOSE CUBES--

"--WE STAND ABOUT AS MUCH CHANCE OF COMIN' OUT OF THIS--

"--AS A SNOWBALL IN HELL!"

THEY'RE NOT SPEAKING--JUST CRACKLING AS IF CHARGED ELECTRICALLY!

MORE'N THAT, PAL! RADIO-ACTIVELY!

NUCLEAR PLASMA! THEIR BLOOD IS IRRADIATED!

"THEY'RE TOTALLY MINDLESS EXCEPT WHEN THE GROUP IS THREATENED.

"THEN THEY LINK-- SOME KIND'A GROUP INSTINCT-- POOLIN' THEIR ENERGIES THROUGH THE CUBES--

"--CONVERTING IT TO PURE POWER--"

SHHH-oo

--AN' SENDIN' IT RIGHT AT US!!

SSKROWW!

OKAY--SO I WAS WRONG FROM THE START!

THE QUESTION NOW IS--

--WHAT DO I DO ABOUT IT?

KIND OF A MOOT POINT, THAT...

...'CAUSE ONCE OUR WALL-CRAWLING WONDER FIGURES OUT THAT SOMETHING'S GOT TO BE DONE...

...HE WASTES PRECIOUS LITTLE TIME DOING IT...

...SPIDER-STYLE!

MY 100% GUARANTEED SPIDEY-PUNCH IS NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT--

--BUT THESE KIDS DON'T SEEM TO FEEL A THING!

TARGETS DISTRACTED.

WIDE-FOCUS BLAST SUGGESTED FOR TOTAL ELIMINATION.

THAT WOULD WIPE OUT THE GUY WHO JUMPED ME TOO, 'PUTER!

AFFIRMATIVE.

I DON'T THINK I WANT TO DO THAT--

--AT LEAST NOT 'TIL I FIND OUT WHO HE IS!

HERE'S LOOKIN' AT YOU, YA STINKIN' ZOMBIES!

THE ENTIRE GROUP SCREAMS AS THE LASER-BURST FINDS ITS TARGET...

ZZTT!

... AND SCATTERS MINDLESSLY AS PAIN FLOODS OVER ITS COLLEC - TIVE, INSTINC- TIVE BEING.

THEY'RE TAKING OFF -- ALL EXCEPT THIS ONE GUY WHO FINALLY REALIZED I'D KAYOED HIM --

--AND THE ONE WHO GOT ZAPPED!

THEY SEEM TO PLAY FOR KEEPS AROUND HERE!

THEY'RE GETTIN' AWAY, 'PUTER!

AFFIRMATIVE.

SURVIVAL- INSTINCT OPERATIONAL ON FIGHT-OR-FLIGHT IMPULSE.

YEAH -- BUT THEY'LL BE BACK, 'PUTER -- 'CAUSE ONE OF THEIR GROUP'S STILL BREATHIN' --

STRAKKT

--AN' WE GOT HIM!

THEY'RE GONE!

YEAH! FOR NOW!

NOW S'POSE YOU START TALKIN', FRIEND --

--STARTIN' WITH WHY YOU JUMPED ME!

WELL, FOR OPENERS -- YOU LOOKED A LOT MORE DANGER- OUS THAN THE GROUP YOU WERE SNEAKING UP ON --

--AN' WHERE I COME FROM US FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MEN TEND TO SIDE WITH THE UNDERDOGS!

BUT WHERE I COME FROM IS A LONG WAY OFF -- AND I DON'T SUPPOSE WHAT HAPPENED IN 1975 CARRIES MUCH WEIGHT NOW!

HOLD ON, PAL -- I AIN'T SO OLD THAT I DON'T RE- MEMBER US PUTTIN' A MAN ON THE MOON -- GETTIN' INVOLVED IN GLOBAL WAR --

--AN' LETTIN' RYKER GET STRONG ENOUGH WITH ALL HIS BLASTED COM- PUTERS TO RUN THE WHOLE SHOW!

LETTIN' HIM TURN SOME OF US INTO MAN- MADE MONSTERS -- CYBORGS! THE NAME'S DEATHLOK, FRIEND --

--WELCOME TO 1990!

NO! IT CAN'T BE!!

ONLY FIFTEEN YEARS AND THE WHOLE CITY'S IN RUINS! UNINHABITED EXCEPT FOR FREAKS AND MUTANTS!

EVERYBODY I KNEW-- GONE!! NOT EVEN A MEMORY LEFT!

AND WHAT ABOUT ME? DO I STILL EXIST IN THIS TIME?

OR DID SOMETHING HAPPEN IN THE PAST TO MAKE IT SO THAT I NEVER EXISTED?

AND YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF...SPIDER-MAN, DEATHLOK?

LOOK, PAL--I LAY DEAD FOR FIVE YEARS IN ONE OF RYKER'S BODY-BANKS!

SOME MEMORIES THEY LET ME KEEP--

--SOME THEY FIGURED WEREN'T IMPORTANT AND THEY ERASED 'EM!

EVEN MY INTERNAL COMPUTER DRAWS A BLANK ON YOU!

BUT WHETHER YOU EXISTED OR NOT DOESN'T MATTER MUCH TO ME RIGHT NOW!

WHAT DOES MATTER IS THESE MUTIES AND THEIR POWER-CUBES! WHEN YOU STOPPED ME AWHILE AGO--THEY'D BEEN HUNTIN' ME WHILE I WAS HUNTIN' THEM!

BUT IF THEY'RE AS MINDLESS AS YOU SAY--?

YOU DON'T NEED A MIND TO BE HUNGRY, CHUM! THE MUTIES ARE CANNIBALS-- LIKE MOST OF THE SCAVENGERS LEFT ON THE ISLAND!

AN' THERE'S A DECAY-FACTOR INHERENT IN A CYBORG-FORM! THEY SMELL ME!

SO IT'S ME OR THEM, PAL--

--AN' I'D KINDA LIKE TO *SEE TO IT* THAT IT AIN'T *ME!*

IF YOU'RE *COMIN'*, PAL--BRING ALONG THE *MUTIE!*

WE MAY *NEED HIM* TO FIND HIS *GROUP!*

OKAY, DEATHLOK--I'M *WITH* YOU--BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO BE RIGHT NOW!

AND BECAUSE I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT FOR SURE WHETHER *EVERYTHING'S* GONE!

SMOKE CAME

I JUST CAN'T *BUY* A WORLD WITHOUT A *PETER PARKER*--A *MARY JANE*--EVEN A *JONAH JAMESON!*

NOT JUST LIKE *THAT!*

EXAL

For Plea

AND THERE'S ENOUGH *ROOM* IN ALL THE THEORIES OF *PHYSICS* TO ALLOW FOR MORE THAN *ONE EARTH*--

--MORE THAN ONE *TIME PERIOD!*

"MAYBE THIS *ISN'T* THE SAME *DIMENSION!*

"MAYBE *THIS* FUTURE IS JUST *ONE* OF A MILLION *POSSIBLE* FUTURES!

"*SURE*, PARKER--AND MAYBE IT'S ALL A *BAD DREAM* BROUGHT ON BY TOO MANY ICE CREAM *SODAS*--AND I'LL WAKE UP SOON AND TAKE *MJ* TO A *MOVIE!*

"THEN AGAIN--WHAT IF *I DON'T* WAKE UP??"

CYBORG'S COMING INTO *SIGHT*, STRAKE!

'BOUT TIME! WE BEEN WAITIN' ALL *MORNING*--EVER SINCE THE *OMNI-COMPUTER* LATCHED ONTO THE *SIGNALS* COMIN' FROM THAT *FREAK!*

BUT WHO'S THE GUY IN THE *PARTY-SUIT* WITH HIM?

NEVER *SAW* HIM BEFORE! MAYBE WE SHOULD CHECK WITH *CENTRAL!*

NO--ORDERS ARE TO STAY *CLEAR* OF THE *CIA!* SOMETHIN' FUNNY GOIN' ON WITH THEM THESE DAYS! *

IF HE'S *WITH* THE CYBORG--HE MUST BE A *TARGET!*

ALL RIGHT--THEY *BOTH* GO--

* *AST. TALES* #35-36. --MARV.

"--BUT THE CYBORG GETS IT FIRST!"

WE'RE GETTIN' CLOSE, PAL!

AND MY SPIDER-SENSE JUST STARTED TINGLING LIKE MAD!

DEATHLOK! WE'RE BEING WATCHED--!

THE COMPUTER'S PICKIN' UP TRACES OF RADIOACTIVITY IN THIS DIRECTION!

CORRECTION, CHUM!

WE'RE BEING SHOT AT!!

PEOW!

STRAMM

WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE OPEN-- OFF THE STREET BEFORE--

THE WORDS ARE HARDLY OUT OF SPIDEY'S MOUTH WHEN HE FEELS THE WEIGHT ON HIS SHOULDER LURCH.

AND HE WATCHES IN HORROR AS THE BULLETS RIP THROUGH THE UNCONSCIOUS YOUTH.

THE BODY LAYS QUIETLY ON THE STREET. THE BOY HAD NEVER SPOKEN. NEVER UTTERED A SOUND SINCE HIS CUBE HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM HIM.

AND NOW HE'LL NEVER DO ANYTHING AGAIN.

NO!

NO!!

EVERYWHERE I GO SOMEBODY'S TRYING TO DRAG DOWN SOMEBODY ELSE!

AND I'VE HAD ENOUGH!!

TARGET LOCATED. SNIPERS HIDDEN WITHIN BILLBOARD ABOVE STREET.

YER GETTIN' SLOW, 'PUTER--

TTZZ--

--I SPOTTED 'EM FIVE SECONDS AGO!

YOU MISSED DEATHLOK, STRAKE-- AND NOW HE'S SPOTTED US!

--ZZATT

SHUT UP, GRISSOM!

THE CYBORG CAN'T HIT US FROM THE ANGLE HE'S FIRIN' AT--AN' HE CAN'T GET BACK ONTO THE STREET WITHOUT US GETTIN' HIM!

"SO IT'S GONNA BE LIKE SHOOTIN' FISH IN A BARREL! PICKIN' 'EM OFF NICE 'N EASY--

"GRISSOM! LOOK!

"IT'S THE DUDE IN THE COSTUME!

"SWINGIN' AT US ON SOME KINDA WEB!!

"HE'S MOVIN' SO FAST I CAN'T DRAW A BEAD ON 'IM!

"HOLD IT! HE'S SWINGIN' RIGHT INTO THE CROSS-HAIRS!

"THIS IS IT! THERE AIN'T NO WAY I CAN MISS THIS TIME!"

THE SNIPER'S FINGER TIGHTENS ON THE TRIGGER, SLOWLY SQUEEZING BACK... SURE OF HIS TARGET...

...BUT, IN LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES TO *READ* THESE LINES HIS TARGET IS *UPON HIM*...

...AND IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME!

YOU KNOW SOMETHING, PAL?

ONCE THAT *RIFLE* IS TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU--YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER SLIMY LITTLE *WEASEL!*

NOT MUCH OF A *MAN*-- NOT EVEN MUCH OF A *MURDERER!*

IN FACT-- YOU'RE NOT MUCH OF *ANYTHING!!*

KER-RAM!

AND EVEN THE FACT THAT THINGS ARE SCREWED UP AROUND HERE--

--AND EVERY-BODY SEEMS TO GO AROUND TAKING *POT-SHOTS* AT EVERYBODY *ELSE*--

--DOESN'T *CHANGE* ANYTHING!

NOT ONE SINGLE BIT!

BLAM!

OOPS! I WAS SO BUSY EXPLAINING THE *FACTS OF LIFE* TO YOU, PAL--

--THAT I FORGOT ABOUT YOUR COWARDLY LITTLE *PARTNER!*

YOU *MISSED* ME, CHUM--

--AND THIS TIME MY BACK *ISN'T* TURNED!

THE SNIPER ISN'T LISTENING.

AND IT'S A FAIR BET THAT HE'LL NEVER TRY TO SHOOT ANYONE EVER AGAIN.

THIS A *PRIVATE PARTY?*

OR IS *ANYBODY* INVITED?

YOU KNOW-- *I* COULD'VE FINISHED HIM A LITTLE LESS *PERMANENTLY,* DEATHLOK!

BUT YOU ACTUALLY SEEM TO *ENJOY* THE KILLING!

NOPE.

WHUMP

IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU SEE IT, IT'S FINE WITH ME-- BUT DON'T BE TO *SURE* ABOUT THAT

HEY-- *LISTEN!*

SOUNDS LIKE *CHANTING!*

YEP. OUR LITTLE *PLAYMATES* ARE *BACK*-- LOOKIN' FOR THE MUTIE WE *CAPTURED!*

AND HAVING FOUND HIS VEN-TILATED *BODY*-- IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT THEY'RE OUT FOR *BLOOD!*

"OURS-- AND IN SPADES!"

THE CHANTING FILLS THE RUBBLE-STREWN STREET. THE CUBES CLUTCHED IN WHITE-KNUCKLED FISTS BEGIN TO GLOW.

THEIR EYES ARE STILL BLANK, BUT THIS TIME THEIR ENERGY HAS FOUND A FOCUS--

--A LEADER, WHO HAS BOUND THE GROUP TOGETHER WITH A DESIRE THAT OVERRIDES THEIR MINDLESS FORAGING.

A DESIRE FOR... REVENGE!

HERE IT COMES, DEATHLOK! YOUR PLAYMATES 'VE STARTED TO GLOW AGAIN--

IT STILL TAKES 'EM LONGER TO REACT AS A GROUP THAN IF THEY ACTED INDIVIDUALLY!

--AND THEY'RE POINTING RIGHT AT US!

AN' THAT'S OUR CHANCE! TO MOVE BEFORE THEY CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT'S HAPPENIN'!

TROUBLE IS--

"--EVEN IF WE MOVE FAST ENOUGH TO BEAT THE BLAST UP HERE--

STRAMM!

"--WE STILL GOTTA FACE 'EM DOWN ON THE STREET!"

LOOK AT 'EM, DEATHLOK! LOOK WHAT THEY'RE DOING!

THE MINUTE WE HIT GROUND THE GROUP SPLIT UP!

WHICH MAKES IT A LOT EASIER FOR US TO TAKE 'EM ON!

ONE BY ONE!

BUT WHY WOULD THEY GIVE UP THE ADVANTAGE OF GROUP STRENGTH--

--AND COME AT US SINGLY??

THEY'RE SO TOTALLY DISORGA-NIZED THIS WAY THAT THEY CAN'T HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING!

LIKE I SAID BEFORE, PAL--

STRAK!

--NOT ONLY DO THEY NOT THINK INDIVIDUALLY--

--BUT WHEN THEY'RE HUNGRY IT KIND OF WIPES OUT EVERYTHING ELSE!

YEAH.

I GUESS I WAS TRYING TO FORGET *THAT* ASPECT OF THIS WHOLE THING!

THAT'S THE PART YOU *CAN'T* FORGET, CHUM! THE PART THAT ALLOWED *RYKER* AN' THE *MILITARY* TO *CHANGE* PEOPLE--

--THAT ALLOWED 'EM TO TAKE OVER AN' DO WHATEVER THEY *WANTED*--

--AN' TO MAKE *MONSTERS* OUT OF PEOPLE! MONSTERS LIKE *ME*!!

THE BATTLE IS *SHORT-LIVED.*

HALF THEIR NUMBER EITHER *UNCONSCIOUS* OR *SLAIN*, THE REMNANTS OF THE MINDLOCKED GROUP BREAK OFF THE FIGHT...

...AND *RUN*, MINDLESSLY, TO WANDER, REFORM AND *REGROUP* AGAIN...ENDLESSLY.

THAT'S *THAT.* IT'S ALWAYS THE *SAME!* THEIR HUNGER BUILDS *UP* UNTIL THEY CAN'T *STAND IT*--

--AN' THEN THEY *HIT AN' RUN!*

SOUNDS A LITTLE LIKE *YOU,* DEATHLOK!

YEAH, PAL--I'M AS *DRIVEN* AS THE REST! BUT *ME*--I GOT A *REASON!*

THIS WORLD--AN' BEIN' *NORMAL*--WAS ALL TAKEN *AWAY* FROM ME BY A DUDE NAMED *RYKER!*

AN' I INTEND TO GET IT *BACK!*

YOU MAKE IT SOUND AS IF THESE KIDS *ASKED* TO BE TURNED INTO *IRRADIATED FREAKS,* DEATHLOK! THAT THEY *LIKE* WHAT THEY'VE BEEN FORCED TO BECOME!

SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK EVEN *YOU* BELIEVE *THAT!*

LOOK AT HIM, DEATHLOK! UNDER HIS MASK HE'S JUST A KID-- YOUNGER THAN ME!

IS HE WHAT YOU SHOULD BE FIGHTING?

OR IS IT THE SYSTEM THAT MADE HIM--AND YOU-- WHAT YOU'RE REALLY UP AGAINST?

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE YOU'VE GOT HERE--

--FIGHTING ALL THE SIDE ISSUES WHILE THE REAL PROBLEMS SIT ON TOP AND LAUGH AT ALL OF YOU!

I PRAY THAT THIS ISN'T OUR FUTURE --THE FUTURE OF MY TIME!

AND IF IT IS--

--I PRAY IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO CHANGE IT!

WITHIN THE ALLEY HOVERS THE TIME-PLATFORM OF VICTOR VON DOOM... THE VEHICLE THAT CARRIED SPIDEY FROM PAST TO FUTURE AND BACK AGAIN... AND WITH A FLASH, IT'S GONE...

...LEAVING THE COMPUTERIZED WARRIOR OF A TIME THAT MAY-- OR MAY NOT-- BE FACING THE COLD RUINS OF A ONCE-PROUD CITY.

I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME I DID WHAT I BEEN MEANIN' TO DO, 'PUTER--

--AN' HAD THAT SHOWDOWN BETWEEN ME AN' RYKER ONCE AN' FOR ALL!*

* IT TAKES PLACE IN AST. TALES #36-- MARV.

AFFIRMATIVE.

OUR STUPENDOUS STORYLINE CONTINUES IN MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #17.

BACK IN THE PRESENT AS

SPIDEY

TEAMS UP WITH THE EVER-LOVIN' BLUE-EYED

THING

TO FACE A (DARE WE SAY IT?) BLAST FROM THE PAST!

BE THERE!

STILL ONLY 25¢

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™ 17 JULY CC 02906

MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE™

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

PRESENTS

THE THING AND SPIDER-MAN™

SNAPPING MY WEB WON'T HELP YOU-- SPIDEY'S COMING THRU!

MEBBE YOU CAN SMASH SPIDER-MAN, CREEP-- BUT NOBODY CLOBBERS THE THING!

HE'S BACK-- DEADLIER THAN EVER!

THE BASILISK!

RON WILSON
JOE SINNOTT

BECAUSE YOU DEMANDED IT-- Stan Lee presents: THE THING™ & SPIDEY™ --TOGETHER!

JV273

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THAT FINEST OF ALL POSSIBLE TEAM-UPS...

BILL MANTLO WRITER

SAL BUSCEMA & MIKE ESPOSITO ARTISTS

JEAN HIPP LETTERS

DON WARFIELD COLORS

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST... MARV WOLFMAN EDITOR

THIS CITY--AFIRE!

IF YOU HAPPENED TO HAVE BEEN LOOKING OUT YOUR **WINDOW** A FEW HOURS AGO, YOU MIGHT HAVE SEEN A FIGURE IN THE SKIES OVER MANHATTAN THAT COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN **SPIDER-MAN**, PLUCKED FROM MID-AIR BY A STRANGELY HOVERING **FIREBALL!**

SOME OF THE EVENTS DEPICTED IN THIS BOOK HAD THEIR **PARTIAL** BEGINNINGS IN **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #16.**

IF YOU **CARED** YOU MIGHT HAVE PHONED FOR THE **POLICE**. IF NOT, YOU PROBABLY CURLED UP IN BED WITH THE DAY'S **DAILY BUGLE** AND, SOON AFTER READING THE **EDITORIAL**--YOU MIGHT HAVE FOUND YOURSELF **ASLEEP!**

I MADE IT! THIS HAS GOTTA BE THE PRESENT!

IT'S GOTTA!!

BUT I FEEL SO... FUNNY! THOUGHTS... VAGUE!!

CAN'T SEEM TO THINK STRAIGHT!

BUT FOR THE **WALL-CRAWLER**, THOSE FEW HOURS HAVE BEEN AGONIZED **DAYS** SPENT **LOST IN TIME**, FIGHTING **MENACES** IN BOTH THE **PAST** AND THE **FUTURE** THAT YOU, IN YOUR SLUMBER, COULD NEVER EVEN **DREAM OF.***

AND NOW, A FEW HOURS **LATER**, THE PRODIGAL SON **RETURNS**, AND HOPES HIS VOYAGING IS **OVER!**

JV 273

*DETAILED IN MTU#'s 41-46-- Marv.

DOOM'S TIME-PLATFORM!

RIGHT... THAT I REMEMBER!

THE VISION SENT IT BACK FOR ME AFTER OUR BATTLE WITH THE DARK RIDER IN 17TH CENTURY SALEM!

I STAYED, HOPING TO SAVE THE PEOPLE WHO'D BEEN ACCUSED OF BEING WITCHES DURING THE RIOTS--

--BUT I BLEW IT! THE FIGHT TOOK TOO LONG-- AND THEY WERE ALL HANGED! JUST LIKE IN THE HISTORY BOOKS! *

*WHAT CAN WE SAY, TROOPS? MTU #41-44--MARV.

AND THEN... WHAT?

I GOT BACK ON THE PLATFORM, HEADING FOR NOW--

-- BUT HALFWAY HERE THE LOCAL BECAME AN EXPRESS DURING SOME KIND OF TIME-STORM!

I--I SEEM TO REMEMBER GOING SOMEWHERE-- FIGHTING!

LIKE IN A DREAM-- WHERE EVERYTHING IS RECOGNIZABLE--

... BUT DIFFERENT AT THE SAME TIME!

THERE GOES THE PLATFORM-- BACK TO LATVERIA OR WHEREVER DOOM IS NOW!

MAYBE I EVEN DREAMED ALL THAT!

NO. THAT MUCH OF IT WAS REAL! I CAN CHECK IT WITH THE VISION IF I HAVE TO.

BUT I STILL FEEL LIKE THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE! SOMETHING I SHOULD REMEMBER!

OH, WELL. STANDING ON A WINDY ROOFTOP ISN'T GONNA GET ME ANYTHING BUT A COLD--

--SO MAYBE I'LL REMEMBER ON MY WAY DOWNTOWN!

YEAH. MAYBE!

AND MAYBE NOT!

AND ACROSS FOUR DECADES, TWO MEN-- ONE CALLED KILLRAVEN, THE OTHER, DEATHLOK-- STOP, SHAKE THEIR HEADS... AND SLOWLY LOSE TOUCH WITH A DREAM.

QUESTION: WHAT'S ORANGE WITH ROCK-LIKE SKIN, WEIGHS SOMEWHERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 500 LBS., HAS A PLEASANT, SUNNY DISPOSITION...

...AND IS, AT THIS MOMENT, CLIMBING DOWN THE MOUTH OF A VERY LIVE...

...VOLCANO?

C'MON' TOE! FIND YERSELF A CRACK IN THEM ROCKS AN' HANG ON!

ANSWER BENJAMIN J. GRIMM.

THE THING!

I MUST BE GETTIN' CORNY IN MY OLD AGE--

--'CAUSE I'M STARTIN' TO REMEMBER ALL THEM GRADE B'S WHERE THE HERO LOOKS UP AN' WONDERS IF HE'S EVER GONNA SEE THE SUNLIGHT AGAIN!

EXCEPT THIS AIN'T NO MOVIE!

"UNLESS I BEEN CAST IN A REMAKE OF 'ONE MILLION YEARS B.C.' AN' THEY AIN'T GOT AROUND TA TELLIN' ME YET!

"IT ALL STARTED WHEN REED'S GIZMOS BEGAN PICKIN' UP SEISMIC SHOCKS UNDERNEATH THE SOUTH POLE--

"--WHICH MEANT THAT YERS TRULY FOUND HIM-SELF SKY-DIVIN' RIGHT SMACK INTA THE MIDDLE O' KA-ZAR'S HIDDEN JUNGLE--*

"--WHERE THE WELCOMIN' COMMITTEE CONSISTED O' ONE HUNGRY ALLOSAURUS--

"--WITH ME TAKIN' THE PLACE O' THE T-BONE ON THE LOCAL MENU!

I'LL BET YER A GAS AT PARTIES, ALLY!

YA GOT MORE IVORIES IN THAT CAVERN-MOUTH O' YERS THAN A BLASTED PIANO!

DINO WAS NO SWEAT.

*MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #16 -- MARV.

STILL, I WASN'T KNOCKIN' THE FACT THE OL' JUNGLE LORD AN' HIS PET SIAMESE, ZABU, PICKED THAT PARTICULAR MOMENT TO MAKE THEIR ENTRANCE.

I, TOO, HAVE HEARD OF THESE ERUPTIONS WHOSE SOURCE YOU SEEK, BEN GRIMM!

ZABU AND I WILL LEAD YOU TO THAT WHICH THREATENS THE SAVAGE LAND!

"HE LED, ALL RIGHT.

"WALTZIN' US RIGHT INTO THE HALF-BAKED SCHEMES OF A MADMAN NAMED VOLCANUS!

"SEEMS VOLCANUS FIGGERED ON USIN' THE FORCE OF THE VOLCANIC DISTURBANCES TA MAKE HIMSELF A GOD! HE MIGHT EVEN HAVE MADE IT--

"-- IF HE HADN'T SLIPPED AN' FELL INTO THE LAVA BUBBLIN' AWAY IN THE HEART O' THE VOLCANO BELOW HIM!

"THE SAME VOLCANO THAT I DECIDED I HADDA CHECK OUT...

"FROM THE INSIDE!"

I WISH YOU LUCK, MY FRIEND!

THAT AIN'T HALF O' WHAT I'M WISHIN' MYSELF PAL!

SO HERE I AM-- CLINGIN' TO A WALL LIKE I WUZ A BLASTED SPIDER-MAN!

LAVA UNDERNEATH ME --THE WHOLE PLACE SMELLIN' O' SULPHUR--

-- AN' I STILL AIN'T FOUND A THING TO EXPLAIN WHY VOLCANOS ALL OVER THE GLOBE PICKED THIS HERE WEEKEND TO SOUND OFF!

MAYBE REED SHOULD'A SENT THE TORCH-- OR EVEN SUZIE--

--'CAUSE AS A SUPER-HERO, MRS. GRIMM'S LITTLE BOY BENJAMIN'S TURNIN' INTO A REAL WASHOUT!

PERHAPS, BEN GRIMM... BUT NOT VERY LIKELY.

STILL, IF YOUR SEARCH HAS, AS YET, PROCURED NO RESULTS...

... PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE THAT WHICH YOU SEEK HAS NO INTENTION OF BEING FOUND.

YET.

AWRIGHT -- ENOUGH WITH THE **SOB STORIES**, BENJAMIN! YER JUST LETTIN' THIS PLACE GIVE YA THE **CREEPS!**

REMEMBER--YA AIN'T GOT NUTHIN' TO **FEAR** 'CEPTIN' FOR FEAR **ITSELF!**

OR SUMPIN' TO THAT EFFECT--

YOIKKKS!

WHAT IN THE NAME O' **AUNT PETUNIA--??**

SKEE

A **BAT!** SO **ASTONISHED** ARE YOU THAT YOU FAIL TO NOTICE ITS **GREEN** COLORATION.

AND THEN THERE'S NO TIME TO NOTICE **ANYTHING.**

THERE'S ONLY TIME TO **FALL!**

NOW I DID IT!

I MUST'A FIGURED I'D **FLOAT** ONCE I LET GO O' THAT **LEDGE!**

NAH! TROUBLE IS I **DIDN'T** FIGURE -- AT **ALL!**

WELL, YA BETTER DO SOME **FANCY THINKIN'** NOW, MISTER--

WHUMP!

--AN' **FAST--!**

OR YER GONNA FIND OUT IF THEM **ROCKS** YER MADE OF **MELT** JUST LIKE THE **REGULAR KIND!**

PHEW!

I DON'T EVEN WANNA **THINK** ABOUT IT!

AND AFTER A PAINSTAKING CLIMB **BACK** TO THE LEDGE FROM WHICH HE'D **FALLEN...**

SOMETHIN' AIN'T RIGHT IN HERE! LIKE WHAT WOULD A **BAT** BE DOIN' INSIDE A **VOLCANO!**

AN' WHAT MADE IT **FLY OUT?**

I THINK I'LL JUST TAKE ME A **LOOK-SEE** INSIDE THIS HERE **CAVE!**

OR I'LL **TRY** TO, ANYHOW!

NUTHIN'! I CAN'T SEE MORE'N SIX INCHES INTA THE BLASTED THING!

WAIT A MINNIT! THERE IS SOMETHIN' IN THERE--MOVIN' TOWARDS ME!

IF ONLY I COULD SEE--

YARRR!

MY EYES!

SPRAKT!

IF IT IS LIGHT YOU WISH, INTRUDER--

--THEN IT IS LIGHT YOU SHALL HAVE!

GREAT! FLASH WAS SO SUDDEN I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO COVER MY EYES!

EVERYTHIN'S FLASHIN' COLORS IN MY HEAD--LIKE A PINBALL MACHINE GONE HAYWIRE!

GOTTA TRY AN' CRAWL TOWARDS THAT VOICE! GRAB HOLD O' THE JOKER WHO DID THIS TO ME--

--AN' THEN PULVERIZE HIM!

HOW FITTING THAT YOU COME TO ME ON YOUR KNEES, FOOL--

--FOR SOON THAT IS THE POSTURE THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL ADOPT! CRAWLING TO ME--

--SUPPLICATING! BEGGING!!

COWERING IN ABJECT FEAR AS THEY AWAIT THE MOMENT WHEN I WILL EITHER PRESERVE OR DESTROY THEM IN THE FIRES OF THE EARTH!

AND IN THAT MOMENT WILL THE WORLD CRY--

BASILISK!

*LAST SEEN IN THE PAGES OF MARVEL TEAM-UP, ISSUES # 16 + 17 -- MARV.

I HEAR HIM UP AHEAD O' ME--

JUST GOTTA GET A LITTLE CLOSER!

GOTTA KEEP HIM **SQUAWKIN'!** GIVE MY EYES A CHANCE TO QUIT SHOOTIN' OFF **FIRE-WORKS** AN' GET BACK TO **NORMAL!**

BASILISK, HUH? SO IF YER SUCH **GREAT SHAKES--**

--HOW COME I AIN'T NEVER **HEARD** OF YA?

AN **ACCIDENT,** MY FRIEND--

--WHEREIN I ALLOWED MY **GREED** TO OVERCOME MY **JUDG-MENT!** *

KEEP JAWIN' JUST A LITTLE **LONGER,** LOUDMOUTH!

BUT IN THE **MONTHS** SINCE THEN I HAVE **LEARNED** TO BE BOTH **PATIENT** AND **JUDICIOUS!**

*AGAIN, **MTU** #16 -- MARV.

AND **THIS** TIME THERE WILL BE **NO** MARGIN FOR **ERROR--**

--FOR THERE WILL **BE NO ERROR!** BEFORE, MY POWER WAS **HALVED! INCOMPLETE!**

BUT **NOW** THE BASILISK IS **WHOLE--**

--AND **NOTHING** CAN STAND **BEFORE ME!**

WANNA **BET,** HOTSHOT?

NOW THAT MY BABY-BLUES ARE BACK IN **BUSINESS--**

-- I AIN'T GOTTA **WORRY** ABOUT HAVIN' TA FIGHT WHAT I CAN'T **SEE--**

--'CAUSE YER UGLY PUSS IS COMIN' THROUGH **LOUD AN' CLEAR** -- AN' BUSTER, THAT MEANS--

--IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!

WHOMM!

FOOL! YOU ONLY **PROLONG** THE INEVITABLE!

FOR THE *CHAIN OF EVENTS* HAS ALREADY *BEGUN!*

THE FIRST *LINK* HAS ALREADY BEEN *FORGED!*

--HHSSS

THE BASILISK HAS *WAITED* TOO LONG--

--*PLANNED* TOO LONG--

--SST--

--TO ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE STOPPED *NOW!*

EVEN NOW-- AS *THIS* BATTLE DRAWS TO A *CLOSE*--

--THE EARTH *ABOVE US* BEGINS ITS *UPHEAVAL!*

--KRAK!

--STRR

AT MY COMMAND!

YA MEAN TA TELL ME A LITTLE PUNK LIKE *YOU* IS CAUSIN' THEM *VOLCANOS?*

WHY YA *DIRTY--!*

ENOUGH!

FOR *YOU,* MY FINE FOOL-- WILL NOW *FREEZE!*

SHAAA!

TWIN SHAFTS OF POWER LANCE TOWARDS BEN GRIMM--

*-- AND HIS OUTSTRETCHED HAND **NEVER CLOSES** ON THE PRIZE HE HAD ANTICIPATED NO PROBLEM IN **CATCHING.***

THERE!

IT IS DONE!

THE POWER OF MY *EYE BEAMS* IS IMMEASURABLY *STRONGER--*

-- PERHAPS EVEN *GREATER* THAN I MYSELF AM *AWARE!*

BUT *THAT* IS A THEORY WHICH SHALL SOON BE PUT TO THE *TEST!*

FOR IT IS TIME FOR THE *EARTH* TO *RISE UP* ONCE AGAIN!

BUT *THIS* TIME IT WILL NOT BE IN SOME *BARREN,* SCARCELY *POPULATED* REGION!

THE TIME HAS COME TO *STRIKE OUT* AT THE VERY *HEART* OF CIVILIZATION! TO LET MANKIND TASTE OF MY POWER IN *FULL!*

AND THE *SIGN* THAT WILL HERALD THE *COMING OF THE BASILISK--*

--WILL BE THE DESTRUCTION OF NEW YORK!

THE BOZO'S SO CAUGHT UP IN HIS *SPEECH--*

--THAT HE DIDN'T NOTICE THAT BY *HEATIN'* HIMSELF UP HE WUZ THAWIN' *ME* OUT AT THE *SAME TIME!*

BUT HE AIN'T GONNA BE KEPT *IGNORANT* FER *LONG!*

HOPE YA GOT ALL THAT OFF YER *CHEST,* BASIL--

--'CAUSE YOU AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE OR DESTROYIN' *NUTHIN'!*

NOT WHILE THE THING IS HERE TO STOP YA!

FOOL! YOU ARE TOO LATE!

MY *ATOMS* WERE IN THE MIDST OF TRANSFERRING THEM-SELVES TO THE ALREADY *DOOMED CITY!*

IN COMING IN *CONTACT* WITH ME--YOU HAVE MERELY SECURED FOR YOURSELF THE *OPPORTUNITY* TO WATCH THE *BURNING OF NEW YORK!*

THAT IS, *IF* YOUR BODY CAN WITHSTAND THE *SHOCK* OF INSTANTANEOUS--UNSHIELDED--*TELEPORTATION!*

WE'RE REALLY SORRY TO LEAVE YOU HANGING LIKE THIS, PILGRIM... BUT BY A MYSTERIOUS PROCESS CALLED CROSS-CUTTING WE'RE GONNA SKIP A FEW MOMENTS AHEAD...

...AND A FEW THOUSAND MILES NORTH-BY-NORTHWEST TO THE CHELSEA APARTMENT OF ONE PETER PARKER, A YOUNG GENTLEMAN QUIETLY TRYING TO SORT OUT HIS THOUGHTS...

...ON WHAT MIGHT VERY WELL BE THE EVE OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CITY IN WHICH HE LIVES.

WELL, THAT MAKES *TWO* ESSAY-QUESTIONS I'VE MANAGED TO *FLUB!*

FACE IT, MR. PARKER!

ONE SIMPLY DOES *NOT* SPEND TWO DAYS TRAVELING THROUGH *TIME* AND THEN COME BACK AND TRY TO PREPARE ONE'S SELF FOR A *FINAL!*

I MAY BE A *SUPER-HERO --* BUT I'M STILL ONLY *HUMAN!*

HEY! WHAT IN--! I'M SORRY, ALREADY-- I'LL ANSWER THE QUESTIONS RIGHT NEXT TIME!

IT FEELS LIKE THE WHOLE BUILDING HAS DECIDED TO GET UP AND WALK AWAY WITH ITSELF!

WHICH IS FINE, EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT IN CHELSEA THEY BARELY BUILD 'EM STRONG ENOUGH TO STAND UP--LET ALONE MOVE TO A BETTER NEIGHBORHOOD!

BUT IT'S NOT JUST ONE BUILDING. THE SHOCK WAVE RIPPLES ACROSS THE WHOLE CITY.

CONDEMNED STRUCTURES FALL. BRIDGES SWAY.

A RECENTLY REBUILT SECTION OF THE WEST SIDE HIGHWAY COLLAPSES AGAIN.

AND AS FAST AS IT HAD COME...THE SHOCK IS GONE.

TELEPHONE--?

RING!

MANHA
DIRECT

YELLO
PAGE

MARY JANE? TRYING TO CALL ME ALL NIGHT--? NO. I WAS... OUT!

OF COURSE I'M ALL RIGHT!

HEY, MJ... WHAT'S WITH THE HYSTERICS! I MEAN YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, AREN'T--?

YES, PETER, YES! I'M FINE! BUT YOU DON'T HAVE A TELEVISION AND THE NEWS SAID YOUR AREA WAS HIT HARDEST AND--

PETER! CAN YOU TO SEE TO THE RIVER FROM YOUR APARTMENT?

JUST BARELY, MARY JANE! BUT I DON'T SEE WHAT--

LOOK NORTHWEST, PETER! UP TOWARDS THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE!

HUH? I--

--I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!

PETER--? ARE YOU THERE?

YEAH... I'M HERE, MJ-- I THINK!

MARY JANE! LISTEN! I'VE GOT TO SWING OVER--

SWING? PETER, WHAT ARE YOU--?

I MEAN HOP A CAB! GET SOME PHOTOS! I MEAN--

PETER, HAVE YOU GONE *CRAZY?*

PETER???

BUT "PETER" IS ALREADY A LONG WAY OFF... AND MOVING *FAST.*

THERE'S THE *BRIDGE--*

--AND THAT BLANKET OF *SMOKE* MEANS THAT I *DID* SEE WHAT I *THOUGHT* I SAW!

BUT THAT'S *IMPOSSIBLE!* IT *COULDN'T* HAPPEN!

NOT IN THE MIDDLE OF *NEW YORK CITY!*

UH OH, WEB-HEAD! MY *SPIDER-SENSE* JUST STARTED BUZZING LIKE *MAD!*

SHOCK WAVE!

EVEN *STRONGER* THAN THE *FIRST!*

SHAKING ME OFF MY *WEBBING* LIKE A DOG SHAKING OFF HIS *FLEAS!*

WHUFFFFF!

IT'S A GOOD THING I WAS SO NEAR THIS *ROOF-TOP--*

--OTHERWISE I MIGHT BE WALKING AROUND WITH A MOST EMBARRASSING *CAST* FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS!

NOW IF ONLY THE *CANARIES'LL* STOP CHASING THE *STARS* INSIDE MY *HEAD* FOR A FEW MINUTES...

BUT I DON'T *HAVE* MINUTES! MAYBE NOT EVEN *SECONDS!*

C'MON, WALL-CRAWLER-- THIS IS NO *JOKE!*

GET YOUR *ACT* TOGETHER-- AND *FAST--!*

'CAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY IS PLANNING ON UPDATING THE LAST DAYS OF POMPEII--

--AND USING NEW YORK FOR HIS LOCATION SHOTS!

THE BURNING CONE IS IMMENSE, RED AND MOLTEN ROCK RUNNING LIKE CRIMSON TEARS DOWN ITS TORN AND BLACKENED SIDES.

SIGHTS LIKE THIS HAVE BEEN SEEN BEFORE... IN THE PACIFIC... OFF THE COAST OF GREENLAND...

...BUT NEVER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HUDSON RIVER!

ALL RIGHT! SO I BELIEVE IT!

THE QUESTION NOW IS--

--WHAT IN BLAZES AM I GONNA DO ABOUT IT?!

I MEAN-- MAYBE IF I WAS THOR I COULD WHIP UP A FAST STORM AND PUT THE FURSH-LUGGINER THING OUT!

--OR THE HULK! I COULD JUST BAT IT CLEAR AWAY TO CLEVELAND!

BUT I'M JUST A FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN! AND WHILE I'M NOT PUTTING THAT DOWN--

--VOLCANOS ARE JUST A BIT OUT OF MY LEAGUE!

GET THE DOCK-AREA CLEARED!

LOOK! IT'S SPIDER-MAN!

DO YOU THINK MAYBE HE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH CAUSING THIS?

I MEAN, THE BUGLE SAYS--

CONKLIN, YOU'RE HERE TO FIGHT A FIRE--

--NOT TO IMPRESS US ALL WITH A RECITATION OF JAMESON'S FUNNY PAPERS!

NOW GET TO WORK MISTER!

UH, SURE! BUT STILL-- IT IS KIND OF STRANGE, HIM SHOWIN' UP WHENEVER SOMETHING GOES WRONG!

"YEAH, JUST ABOUT AS STRANGE AS **US** SHOWIN' UP EVERY TIME THERE'S A **FIRE!**

"CONKLIN, DO YOU EVER USE YOUR **HEAD** FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN HANGIN' YOUR **HELMET** ON?"

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S HOLDING THE FIRE AWAY FROM **12TH AVENUE**--

--BUT THEY'VE HAD TO **SACRIFICE** THE **DOCKS!**

AND SINCE I HAVE TO **CROSS** THEM TO GET TO THE **RIVER**--

-- I'D LIKE TO TRY AND DO IT **WITHOUT** GIVING MYSELF A KING-SIZED **HOT-FOOT!**

BESIDES, I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TRY THIS TRICK OUT FOR **MONTHS!**

FIRST, I WHIP ME UP A QUICK **WEB-DISC**--

USING IT AS A **SHIELD** TO GET ME OVER THE **BURNING DOCKS**--

--AND MY WEBBING BEING **FIRE-PROOF,** I SWING **DOWN** ON TOP OF IT--

--AND THEN AS A **CORACLE*** WHEN I HIT THE **WATER!**

SPLOOSH!

IT MAY NEVER REPLACE **HANG-GLIDING**-- BUT IT **WORKS!**

*A CORACLE IS A SMALL, POD-SHAPED BOAT-- MARINER-MARV.

BUT THIS THING ISN'T VERY **SEA-WORTHY!**

HECK, IT BARELY **FLOATS!**

THWIP!

THWIP!

SOOO--

-- BEFORE I GIVE THE FIRST ONE A CHANCE TO FLIP OVER AND TOSS ME INTO THE DRINK--

--I SPIN UP A BUNCH MORE AND USE THEM AS STEPPING STONES--

--PROVING ONCE AGAIN THE AGE-OLD ADAGE THAT THE FASTEST WAY TO GET BETWEEN TWO POINTS IS VIA THAT GOOD OLD SPIDER'S WEB!

I MADE IT--HIGH AND DRY!

WHOOPS! LOOK OUT, WEB-HEAD--

WHROOM

--'CAUSE OLD SMOKEY'S BLOWIN' ITS TOP!

HUG EARTH, WALL-CRAWLER!

LIKE THE SONG SAYS: "IT'S NOT REALLY RAINING RAIN, YOU KNOW--"

--IT'S RAINING MOLTEN ROCK!

CLOSE! AUNT MAY ALMOST HAD HERSELF A FRENCH-FRIED NEPHEW!

WHOA! AM I STARTING TO SEE THINGS--

--OR IS THERE SOMEBODY STANDING AT THE TOP OF THE CONE??

I CAN'T TELL!

WHA-ROOM!

THERE GOES THE CORK AGAIN!

I *MUST* HAVE IMAGINED IT!

NOBODY COULD LIVE THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE *THAT!*

AND IT LOOKS LIKE *I'M* GONNA GET A CHANCE TO *PROVE IT!*

LAVA! POURING OUT OF THE *CRATER*-- COMING RIGHT *TOWARDS ME!*

AND COMING *FAST!*

LOOKS LIKE IT'S TIME FOR A *STRATEGIC ADVANCE* TO THE *REAR!*

IN *OTHER WORDS,* WALL-CRAWLER--

--RUN FOR IT!

YOU KNOW, THIS IS GETTING A LITTLE *RIDICULOUS!*

I'M JUMPING ALL *OVER* FROM ONE *FRYING PAN* TO *ANOTHER!*

--AND I STILL HAVEN'T GOT THE *FOGGIEST* NOTION OF WHAT'S *CAUSING* ALL THIS!

THEN ALLOW ME TO *EXPLAIN* IT TO YOU, *SPIDER MAN!*

HUH?

NO! IT CAN'T BE!

YOU'RE DEAD! I SAW YOU DIE!!

NO, WALL-CRAWLER! I AM-- THE BASILISK!

I AM THAT I AM!

AND NOW THE JEST COMES FULL CIRCLE!

FOR IT WAS YOU, SPIDER-MAN-- AND THE ACCURSED MISTER FANTASTIC-- WHO WERE THE INSTRUMENTS OF MY ORIGINAL DEFEAT--

--AND AS I HAVE ALREADY DESTROYED RICHARD'S PARTNER-- SO NOW WILL I DESTROY YOU!!

OH, GREAT! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO AGAINST SOMEBODY WHO CAN KAYO THE THING?!

IF THE THING'S DEAD BASILISK--!

THREATS, SPIDER-MAN?

THREATS!??

HERE! YOU MAY HAVE YOUR PRECIOUS FELLOW HERO--!

I ALLOW YOU A MOMENT TO MOURN--

--BEFORE THE END!

WHUMP!

I THINK I CAN FEEL A HEARTBEAT-- BUT IT'S SO HARD TO TELL!

BUT IF I CAN'T BE SURE--THEN MAYBE THE BASILISK'S MISTAKEN! MAYBE THE THING'S ALIVE!

WHICH MEANS IT'S UP TO ME TO KEEP HIM THAT WAY!

I'M COMING FOR YOU, BASILISK!

YOU'VE KILLED THE THING--

--AND YOU'RE GONNA PAY, MURDERER!

YOU ARE A GREATER FOOL THAN I THOUGHT, WALL-CRAWLER--

-- BUT IN SECONDS YOU WILL BE A DEAD FOOL!

HERE COMES HIS EYE-BEAMS!

AND IF HE'S STRONG ENOUGH TO HAVE CAUSED THIS VOLCANO--

-- I CAN IMAGINE WHAT THEY'RE GONNA DO TO ME!

WHAT?? IT CAN'T END HERE YOU SAY?

WELL, MARVELITE, YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT! WE SIMPLY DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH PAGES IN ONE BOOK TO MAKE THIS THE PULSE-POUNDING EPIC WE FELT YOU DESERVED, SOOO...

...WE CONTINUED IT, AND YOU'LL FIND THE CONCLUSION TO THIS MERRY LITTLE TALE IN THE PAGES OF--

MARVEL TEAM-UP #47

ON SALE APRIL 27TH

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FEATURING

SPIDER-MAN

AND

THE THING™

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IF THE *THING* COULDN'T BEAT ME, WEBHEAD--HOW DO YOU FIGURE *YOU* CAN?

TO SAVE NEW YORK, I HAVE NO *CHOICE!*

I HAVE TO FIGHT **THE BASILISK!**

Stan Lee PRESENTS: SPIDEY™ AND THE THING™--TOGETHER!

THE THING IS EITHER UNCONSCIOUS OR DEAD--A VOLCANO HAS ERUPTED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HUDSON RIVER--NEW YORK IS BURNING--AND AS IF ALL THAT ISN'T BAD ENOUGH--

I HAVE TO FIGHT THE BASILISK!

AND IT'S A FIGHT YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE, WALL-CRAWLER!

AS PROMISED, THE POWER-PACKED CONCLUSION TO THE TALE BEGUN IN MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #17, BROUGHT TO YOU BY...

BILL MANTLO, WRITER
RON WILSON, ARTIST
DAN ADKINS, INKER
I. WATANABE, LETTERS
D. WARFIELD, COLORS
MARV WOLFMAN, EDITOR

COULDN'T DODGE THOSE **EYE-BEAMS** OF HIS IN **TIME!**

BEING KNOCKED **BACK**--OFF THE SLOPE OF THE **VOLCANO!**

"AND THAT'S WHAT **BASIL'S** GONNA BE DOING IN THE **MEANTIME!**"

ACCURSED **WEB-SPINNER!**

I WOULD ALMOST **POSTPONE** MY DESTRUCTION OF THE **CITY**--

BUT **THAT'S** NO BIG **DEAL!** ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SHOOT MY WEB-BING **UPWARDS**--

--AND I'M BACK IN **BUSINESS!**

BUT THERE'S ONE THING THAT STILL **WORRIES ME!**

THWIP!

--IF IT MEANT A CHANCE TO **DESTROY YOU!**

AW, C'MON BASIL--I'M NOT WORTH A WHOLE **CITY!**

A FEW **BLOCKS,** MAYBE!

OR ONE OF THE **BOROUGHS!**

GOTTA KEEP **JABBERIN'** --GIVE THE **THING** A CHANCE TO **RECOVER!**

THEN AGAIN, NOW THAT I **THINK** ABOUT IT--**MAYBE** THE WHOLE CITY AT **THAT!**

SPIDER-MAN, YOU ARE **TRULY** A FOOL! YOU THINK TO **DIVERT** MY ATTENTION--YET WITH EACH **WORD** YOU UTTER MY WRATH **INCREASES!**

I HAVE NEVER HATED **ANYONE** AS I HAVE COME TO HATE **YOU!**

"NOT SINCE THAT DAY WHEN **BASIL ELKS**--A TWO-BIT **CAT-BURGLAR,** ATTEMPTED TO STEAL THE **ALPHA-STONE!***

WITH THIS **ROCK,** YOUR DAYS OF BEIN' A **LOSER** ARE OVER, PAL!

*AS CHRONICLED IN **MARVEL TEAM-UP #16**--MARV.

"BUT EVEN THAT GOT **SCREWED UP.**

YOU'RE NOT TAKIN' ME **ALIVE,** CHUM!

BLAM!

YOU DON'T LEAVE ME MUCH **CHOICE,** MISTER!

"I WAS **LUCKY!** HIS BULLET MISSED **ME**--

"--BUT IN TRUE BASIL ELKS **STYLE**-- IT MANAGED TO **HIT** THE VERY GEM THAT WAS GOING TO MAKE ME **RICH!**

"THE GEM **EXPLODED!**

"AND INSTEAD OF A **MILLIONAIRE,** BASIL ELKS BECAME--

"--**SOMETHING ELSE!**

I'M NOT **BASIL ELKS** ANYMORE!

I HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE POWER OF **CHANGE**--TO MAKE THINGS **OTHER** THAN WHAT THEY **ARE!**

NOW I AM--**THE BASILISK!**

"BUT THE **ALPHA STONE** WAS BUT ONE OF A **PAIR** OF GEMS. AND IF **ONE** COULD MAKE ME WHAT I HAD **BECOME**--

"--WHAT, THEN, WOULD BE THE **COMBINED** EFFECT OF **TWO?**

"UNFORTUNATELY, I WAS NOT **THEN** TO KNOW--

"--FOR MY SEARCH WAS INTERRUPTED BY MY BATTLE WITH **YOU,** WALL-CRAWLER--

"--AND **CAPTAIN MARVEL!**

"THE KREE-MAN **KNEW** THE NATURE AND **POWER** OF THE TWO GEMS--

"--AND WHILE I FOUGHT **YOU**-- **HE** UNEARTHED THE **SECOND.**"

THE **OMEGA STONE!**

SO... **BEAUTIFUL!**

"AND SO **DEADLY!** NO SOONER HAD MARVEL **TOUCHED** IT THAN IT BEGAN TO **THROB**--

"--TO **GROW!**"

BY THE SEVEN STARS!

"FEEDING ON HIS KREE-ENERGIES.

"USING MARVEL'S OWN **POWER** TO DRAW HIM **WITHIN** ITS RUBY **DEPTHS!**

THE **STONE**--SINKING INTO THE **EARTH!** WITH MARVEL **INSIDE IT!**

GONE!!

I DON'T **BELIEVE IT!**

"BUT IT WAS TRUE! THE STONE PLUNGED THROUGH ROCK AND SOIL AS IF THEY WERE **WATER** TO THE REGIONS **DEEP** WITHIN THE **EARTH**--

"--INHABITED ONLY BY THE SUBTERRANEAN CULTURE OF **THE MOLE MAN!**

"IT WAS **HE** WHO RECOVERED THE NOW-ENORMOUS **OMEGA STONE**--USING ITS **ENERGIES** TO POWER HIS SURFACE-DIRECTED **LASER CANNON!**

"WHICH YOU **AGAIN** ALMOST SUCCEEDED IN **STOPPING**--AIDED BY REED RICHARDS, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS **MISTER FANTASTIC!***

"AT LEAST, UNTIL **MY ARRIVAL!**"

THE BASILISK! HE'S **BACK!!**

*MTU #17--MARV.

"YET EVEN IN THE **CHAOS** OF THE ENSUING **BATTLE**--AGAINST **HORDES** OF FACELESS SUBTERRANEANS--

"--AGAINST EVEN THE MOLE MAN **HIMSELF**--"

"--YOU **TRIUMPHED!** FREEING THE TRAPPED **CAPTAIN MARVEL**--

ATTACK THEM, MY FAITHFUL ONES!

DESTROY THEM!

"--AND LEAVING **ME** TO RESCUE THE **OMEGA STONE!**

"JUST AS IT WAS **COVERED OVER** BY A WAVE OF MOLTEN--

--LAVA!

OH...NO...

SHALL I TELL YOU OF THE **PAIN,** SPIDER-MAN? OF THE ALMOST UNENDURABLE **AGONY?**

DO I HAVE ANY **CHOICE,** BASIL?

NONE, I'M AFRAID.

"FOR YOU **SEE,** I DID NOT **DIE** BENEATH THE MOLTEN **FLOW**--AS ALL WHO WATCHED **EXPECTED!**

"THE OMEGA STONE GREW AT **MY** TOUCH--ENCASING ME AS IT HAD EARLIER ENCASED **CAPTAIN MARVEL.**

"I **DRIFTED,** WALL-CRAWLER, DOWN A STREAM OF **LIQUID ROCK!** IMMOBILE--

"--UNTIL FOUND BY THE AIMLESSLY WANDERING **SUBTERRANEANS,** WHO HAD THEMSELVES BEEN CUT OFF AND ABANDONED BY THEIR **MASTER!**

"AND IN THE DIM **FASTNESS** OF THEIR MINDS, THEY LOOKED UPON MY TRAPPED FORM AS A **GIFT** TO THEM FROM WHATEVER **GODS** SUCH BEINGS COULD HAVE!

"THEY BORE ME **DEEP** WITHIN THE EARTH, INTO A **CAVERN** THE SUN WOULD NEVER **SEE.** BUT THEN, **DISASTER** STRUCK THEM--

"--AN **EARTHQUAKE,** SEALING ME ALONE WITHIN THE **CAVERN!**

"ALONE EXCEPT FOR **ONE!**

"CURIOUS. **WORSHIPFUL!**

"COMING EVER **CLOSER** TO THE GLEAMING PRESENCE OF HIS **DEITY!**

"DARING TO REACH FOR **HEAVEN--**

"--AND FINDING **HELL** INSTEAD!

"HIS TOUCH **RELEASED** ME FROM THE STONE--ITS ENERGIES JOINING THOSE OF THE **ALPHA STONE** ALREADY **WITHIN ME!**

"AND IN MY **GRATITUDE--**

"--I **SLEW** THE POOR, UNTHINKING CREATURE!

"FEEDING ON HIS **LIFE-FORCE...**

"...GROWING IN **POWER...**

"...UNTIL THE EARTH ITSELF COULD NO LONGER **CONTAIN ME!**

"A **VOLCANO** ROSE IN THE **SAVAGE LAND--**

"--AND IT WAS **THAT** WHICH DREW **BEN GRIMM** TO ME!*

GRIMM--WHO NEVER **SUSPECTED** WHAT LAY IN **WAIT**--WITHIN!

*LAST ISH--MARV.

"WE **BATTLED** THERE, BENEATH THE EARTH!

"THE **FIRST BLOW** WAS **MINE,** STUNNING THE MIGHTY **THING**--

"--FOR I WAS NOT TO BE **STOPPED!** I HAD ALREADY BEGUN THE VOLCANIC CHAIN-REACTION WHICH WOULD DESTROY THE EARTH'S SURFACE, KILLING ALL THOSE WHO ONCE MOCKED ME!

"BUT THE THING WAS NOT **DEAD!** MERELY **STUNNED**--

"--AND AS I PREPARED TO **DEPART**-- TO VIEW **THE HAVOC** I WAS WREAKING UPON THE **WORLD**--

"--HIS MISSHAPEN **HAND** REACHED OUT AND **GRABBED ME!**

YOU AIN'T GOIN **NOWHERE,** BUB--

--NOT WITHOUT **MEE**EEEE...

"**AGAIN** THE EARTH ROSE!

"THIS TIME IN **NEW YORK!**

"AND **WITHIN** THE VOLCANO'S **CONE...**"

THE THING **TELEPORTED** WITH ME!

BUT THE **SHOCK** APPEARS TO HAVE **KILLED HIM!**

AND IF THE MEREST **MODICUM** OF MY POWER WAS ENOUGH TO SLAY THE MIGHTY **THING,** SPIDER-MAN--

--WHAT HOPE CAN **YOU** HAVE OF **DEFEATING ME??**

HE'S GETTING READY TO **ATTACK!**

CAN'T **WAIT** FOR THE THING ANY LONGER!

IF I'M GONNA **ACT**--I'D BETTER DO IT **NOW!**

BEFORE IT'S **TOO LATE!**

OH, NOT **MUCH,** BASIL--

--BUT THEN YOU DON'T GET VERY **FAR** IN THIS JOB ON **HOPE!**

I PREFER RELYING ON MY **SPIDER-STRENGTH**--

--AND THE AGILITY THAT GOT THROWN IN AS A BONUS!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, GREEN-GILLS? NO COMMENT?

I PREFER A MOMENT OF SILENCE, SPIDER-MAN--

--BEFORE I BLOW YOU AWAY!!

STRAK!

SORRY, BASIL--

--BUT YOU'VE GOTTA HIT ME FIRST!

ZAM!

AND SINCE I KNOW ALL TOO WELL WHAT THOSE LITTLE FLASHLIGHT-EYES OF YOURS CAN DO--

--I THINK I'LL MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET ANOTHER CHANCE TO USE THEM!

BUT IN SO DOING YOU MADE THEM STRIKE THE SLOPE WALL --LOOSENING THE LEDGE ABOVE US--

--THUS DOOMING YOURSELF AS WELL, FOOL!

GOTTA LEAP CLEAR!

MADE IT! THE ROCKS GOT BASIL--BUT I CAN HEAR HIM BLASTING AWAY UNDER THERE!

WHICH MEANS I'VE ONLY GOT A FEW SECONDS!

HECK, MAYBE THAT'S ALL I'LL NEED!

THIS METHOD IS A LITTLE CORNY--

--BUT SOMETIMES THE OLD WAYS--

--ARE THE BEST WAYS! C'MON, BENJY!

WAKE UP!!

SPLURSH!

GLUB! WHAT TH--??

WALL-CRAWLER! HOW IN BLAZES DID YOU GET TO THE SOUTH POLE?

AN' WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA O' CHUCKIN' A WEBFUL O' WATER IN MY GLAMOROUS KISSER??

THE WATER WAS JUST MY WAY OF SAYING "HELLO"!

THE BASILISK, HUH? NOW I REMEMBER!

GIMME A HAND UP, WEB-HEAD--

--AN' THEN POINT THE WAY TO THAT BUG-EYED LITTLE CLOWN! ME AN' HIM GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE!

HE'S UNDER THAT PILE OF ROCKS BEHIND YOU, BENJY!

THEM ONES THAT'S MOVIN', YA MEAN!

WHA-TOOM!

YOU GOT IT, BENJAMIN!

YOU BOTH STILL LIVE?

BUT HOW??

DON'T GET YER JAWS IN AN UPROAR WORRYIN' ABOUT IT, CHUM--

--'CAUSE WHERE I'M GONNA SEND YOU--YOU AIN'T GONNA HAVE TO FRET ABOUT NOTHIN'!

ZTAM!

BOY, HAVE YOU BEEN OUT OF IT, TALL, ORANGE AND UGLY!

THE BASILISK TELLS ME HE KNOCKED YOU FOR A LOOP--THEN TRANSPORTED BOTH YOU AND THIS VOLCANO HERE TO NEW YORK!

HOW OFTEN MUST I PROVE MY POWER TO YOU, THING--

--BEFORE YOU LIE DOWN AND DIE??

A GOOD QUESTION...

...BUT ONE THAT'S GOING TO HAVE TO **WAIT** A FEW PANELS AS WE **SWITCH** TO...

POLICE AND FIRE ARE ON AN **ALL-POINTS ALERT**, JONAH!

THEIR **REPORTS** SAY THAT SOMEBODY'S **FIGHTING** ON TOP OF THAT **VOLCANO!**

AND WE HAVEN'T GOT A **PICTURE** TO SHOW FOR IT!

WHERE IN BLAZES IS PARKER??

YOU--WHAT'S YOUR NAME? DID YOU GET AHOLD OF OUR STAR **PHOTOGRAPHER** YET?

NO SIR, MR. JAMESON. HIS LINE'S BEEN BUSY FOR AN **HOUR**--AND WHEN I TOLD THE OPERATOR IT WAS AN **EMERGENCY**--

--SHE **CUT IN**--BUT ALL WE HEARD WAS WHAT SOUNDED LIKE A **CRAZY WOMAN** YELLING THE WORD **"PETER"** OVER AND OVER!

FOR **THIS** I PAY RECEPTIONISTS.

AND FOR THIS I GET OUT OF **BED** IN THE MORNING!

FOR **THIS** I EMPLOY PHOTOGRAPHERS!

FOR **THIS** I RUN A **NEWSPAPER!** OH, DEATH--

--WHERE IS THY STING?

LOOK AT IT, ROBBIE! THE STORY OF THE **CENTURY!**

A DISASTER GREATER THAN THE **HINDENBERG** OR THE CHICAGO **FIRE!**

THERE'LL BE **OTHER** STORIES, JONAH!

YOU **BET** THERE WILL, ROBBIE. STARTING WITH TOMORROW'S **FRONT PAGE**--

"--WHERE THE HEADLINE IS GOING TO READ 'PUBLISHER SLAYS FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHER!'

"JUST WAIT UNTIL I GET MY HANDS ON PETER PARKER!"

I'M GOING TO CRUSH YOU, INSECT!

YOU'RE GOING TO **DIE!!**

FOR THAT YOU MAY HAVE TO WAIT IN **LINE**, JONAH.

ATTABOY, WEB-HEAD! YER KEEPIN' 'IM OFF **BALANCE!**

I THINK YOU NEED **GLASSES**, BENJAMIN! I--UNGGH!

NAH! ALL I NEED IS A *BREATHER* NOW'N' THEN! AN' NOW THAT I'VE *HAD* ONE --

I KNOW--*IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!*

HOW'D'JA *GUESS?*

CAN IT BE THAT YOU STILL DON'T *UNDERSTAND?* THIS IS NO *GAME,* GROTESQUE ONE!

THIS IS *DEATH,* THING--

--*PURE AND SIMPLE!*

STRAA!

AUNT PETUNIA!

THEM *EYE-BEAMS* O' HIS ARE KNOCKIN' ME OFFA THE *VOLCANO!*

AN' EVEN FER FIVE HUNNERT POUNDS O' *BODY-BEAUTIFUL*--

--*IT'S A LONG WAY DOWN!!*

TRUE, BENJAMIN. BUT LUCKILY--OR *UNLUCKILY*-- FOR YOU, YOUR FALL IS ABOUT TO BE *BROKEN...*

...BY AN APPROACHING POLICE CRUISER!

SKA-THROOM!

POLICE

WHAT IN TH' NAME O'SADIE O'REILLY WAS THAT!

WE--WE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN *BOARDED,* SGT. O'ROURKE!

BENJY'S *OKAY--*

--BUT NOW MY FAT'S IN THE *FIRE* ALL BY ITS *LONE-SOME!* AND THE BASILISK IS *MAD!*

TWIP!

STILL--HE CAN'T *BLAST* WHAT HE CAN'T *SEE!*

ONCE *BEFORE* YOU ATTEMPTED TO *STOP ME* IN SUCH A MANNER, SPIDER-MAN!

THEN, YOUR ATTEMPT MET WITH *FAILURE!**

**MTU #16--MARV.*

WHAT MADE YOU THINK IT WOULD BE ANY DIFFERENT *NOW?*

OH, NOTHING IN *PARTIC-ULAR!*

I JUST THOUGHT I'D GIVE IT THE OLD *SCHOOL TRY!*

UNNHHH!

LOOK AT YOU, WALL-CRAWLER! *HUMBLED!*

ON YOUR KNEES!

WHERE SOME OF THE GREAT-EST *VILLAINS* KNOWN TO MAN HAVE *FAILED--*

--THE BASILISK HAS SUCCEEDED!

I COULD FINISH YOU *NOW,* SPIDER-MAN--BUT THERE WILL BE TIME ENOUGH FOR THAT *LATER--*

--AFTER I'VE DESTROYED THE CITY YOU SO FEEBLY ATTEMPTED TO *DEFEND!!*

GAZE ON POWER. THE ABILITY TO TEAR LIFELESS ROCK FROM THE SIDE OF A MOUNTAIN...

...AND SHAPE IT TO ANY PURPOSE.

POWER. PERHAPS UNSTOPPABLE.

TH' GREENIE'S *LEAVIN',* MR. GRIMM! AN' I'M NOT SEEIN' ANY SIGN O' *SPIDER--WAIT!!*

YEAH, I *SEE* HIM, O'ROURKE!

HE'S ASKIN' IF YER *BOAT* CAN GET US TO *SHORE!*

502

POLI

CAST YER PEEPERS *DOWN,* WEB-HEAD! I CLOBBERED THEIR *ENGINE* WHEN I WENT THROUGH THE CABIN *ROOF!*

WE'RE *STRANDED,* HOT-SHOT!

HE'S SIG-NALING YOU TO CLIMB *UP,* THING!

SURE. WHY *NOT?* WE LOST US *THIS* INNING ANYWAY! WHAT'S KILLIN' SOME *TIME* GONNA MATTER?

I'M *COMIN',* WALL-CRAWLER--'CAUSE THERE AIN'T NUTHIN' *ELSE* WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW!

I HOPE YOUR GOOD *CHEER* ISN'T *CONTAGIOUS,* BENJAMIN! A GUY COULD *DIE* BEING THAT *HAPPY!*

WELL SOMETHING'S SURE *TICKLIN'* YOU PAL! *SPILL IT!*

OH--IT'S JUST THAT I THINK I CAN GET US OVER TO THE *CITY* WITHOUT TOO MUCH OF A *DELAY!*

YEAH. HOW?

WATCH, BENJY--

--AND HANG ON!!

WHEE-OOO! HERE COMES SPIDER-MAN-- THE MAN WITH-OUT FEAR!

SHEESH! AIN'T YA GOT NO RESPECT FER COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT, WEB-HEAD?

NOPE. I'M SHAMELESS!

BESIDES, I'M SURE DAREDEVIL WILL FORGIVE ME!

YA JUST BETTER MAKE SURE THIS SKINNY LITTLE TIGHTROPE O' YERS HOLDS UP, CHUM--

--OR THERE AIN'T GONNA BE ENOUGH LEFT O' EITHER OF US TA WORRY ABOUT OL' HORN-HEAD!

IT HELD, BENJY! BUT THAT WAS THE EASY PART!

NOW WE HAVE A CITY TO SEARCH IF WE'RE GOING TO FIND THE BASILISK--

"--BEFORE HE DESTROYS IT!"

COWER, YOU TREMBLING CATTLE!

RUN BEFORE THE MIGHT OF THE BASILISK!

POWER--SUCH AS MY FORMER SELF POSSESSED ONLY IN DREAMS!
--THE POWER TO LASH OUT AND DESTROY THOSE WHO MOCKED HIM!
SKRAAA
BUT WHERE BASIL ELKS COULD ONLY DREAM--
--THE BASILISK CAN ACHIEVE!!
RAKKT!
DOWN, YOU TOWERS OF QUIVERING HUMANITY!
DOWN!!
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE FOUND OUR MADMAN!
YEAH. YOU UP FER TRYIN' THAT WEB-BOOST O' YERS AGAIN, CHUM?
FOR YOU, BENJY--
--ANYTHING!
THAT'S WHY I ASKED!
GO ON, FOOLS, LAUGH!
LAUGH AT HE WHO WAS ONCE A LOSER--
--AND WHO NOW IS THE CONQUEROR OF ALL!
YOU MAY HAVE A LOT O' STRONG POINTS, BASIL--
--BUT MODESTY AIN'T ONE OF 'EM!
THE THING!!
HEY, DON'T FORGET ME!
SPIDER-MAN!
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, IF YOU PLEASE!
QUIT JAWIN' WEB-HEAD! IT'S--

DON'T *SAY IT*, BENJAMIN! *PLEASE!*

TRY SOME-THING *ELSE* FOR ONCE! *ANYTHING!*

I CAN'T *HELP* MYSELF, WEB-HEAD! IT'S IN THE *BLOOD!* ONE O' THOSE THINGS I GOT NO *CONTROL* OVER!

'CAUSE EVERY TIME I GET MYSELF AN *EYEFUL* O' CRUMB-BUMS LIKE OL' *BASIL* HERE--I GET *MAD!*

SHKROW!

TAXI

AN' WHEN MRS. GRIMM'S LITTLE BOY BENJAMIN GETS *MAD--*

--IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!!

SEE--IT JUST SORTA *SLIPPED OUT!*

IF YOU THINK EVEN A *CONCERTED* ATTACK CAN STOP ME *NOW*, SPIDER-MAN--YOU ARE *WRONG!*

DEAD WRONG!!

AW, C'MON, BASIL! IF YOU WANT TO PLAY IN THE *BIG LEAGUES* YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW WHEN YOU'RE *BEATEN!*

HE DOESN'T SEE THAT *TRUCK* IN FRONT OF US! NOW IF ONLY I CAN--

--*DUCK* IN TIME!

SORRY, BUG-EYES! BUT THIS HUNK OF *ROCK* ISN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR THE *BOTH OF US!*

WRAM!

NOW TO GRAB HOLD OF THE *AXLE*--

--*SPIN* MYSELF *BACK*--

--AND GET BACK TO *BENJY* BEFORE HE DOES SOME-THING *RASH!*

C'MERE, CHUCKLES!

WE GOT US SOMETHIN' TO *DISCUSS!*

AFTER YOU WAKE UP!!

BUH-TOW!

THIS IS FER FRIGHTENIN' INNERCENT PEOPLE!

BADOOM!

THIS IS FER YER GENERAL DISTURBANCE O' THE PEACE!

WHUMP!

AN' THIS ONE IS FER ME!

THINK OF IT AS A DOOR PRIZE FER BEIN' SUCH A LOSER!

WHACK!

LOSER? NO!!

I WILL NEVER ALLOW MYSELF TO BE CALLED THAT! NOT WHEN I CAN DESTROY YOU WITH A SINGLE GLANCE!

LOOKS LIKE YOU HIT A SORE-SPOT, BLUE-EYES!

YEP. NOW LET'S SEE IF WE CAN HIT ANOTHER ONE, WEB-HEAD!

KERWHAM!

WE DID, MR. GRIMM!

TWO POWERFUL FISTS BAT THE BASILISK TOWARDS THE TOWERING VOLCANO IN THE DISTANCE...

...JUST AS HIS EYE-BEAMS REACH FULL STRENGTH.

BUT AS THE BASILISK'S CONSCIOUSNESS LEAVES HIM, SO DOES HIS ABILITY TO FOCUS HIS POWER...

...AND THERE IS NOTHING ELSE FOR THE DIRECTIONLESS POWER-BURSTS TO DO...

...BUT IMPLODE!

KATHOOM!

...TAKING THE VOLCANO, AND THE BASILISK... WITH THEM!

OH WELL. THERE GOES ANOTHER ONE!

ALL IN THE DAY'S WORK, BENJAMIN.

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK!

NEXT: THE SCARECROW!

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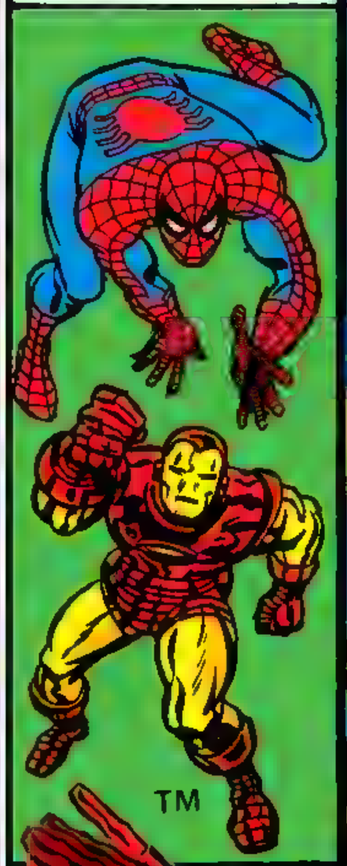
FEATURING

SPIDER-MAN™

AND

IRON MAN®



TM

ROMITA

A FINE NIGHT FOR DYING!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: SPIDEY™ and IRON MAN™--TOGETHER!

JV407

A SOFT SOUND..

WHRRRRR

WHIRRING WOODEN PROP AND PAPER WINGS BORNE ON A QUIETLY DRIFTING BREEZE.

WWWW

RRROO

A LOW DRONING--COMING CLOSER. THEN ANOTHER SOUND.

WHRRRRR

CT

A RASPING, METALLIC SNAP AS SILVER-STEEL CLAWS RELEASE THEIR BURDEN.

RRRR

SNAP!

AND OUR STORY BEGINS.

RRRRRRRRR

SPIDER-SENSE TINGLING LIKE CRAZY!

STARK

INTERN

FU

THAT TOY PLANE! EITHER SOMEBODY'S DESIGNED A MODEL THAT LAYS EGGS--

--OR IT'S JUST DROPPED A BOMB!

story • BILL MANTLO
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A FINE NIGHT FOR DYING!

BRAATROOOM!!

SO MUCH FOR THE EGG-THEORY!

...ENTER: THE WRAITH!

THE SHOCK-WAVE FROM THE BLAST IS TOSSING ME CLEAR UP OVER ***LONG ISLAND CITY!***

WHICH IS ***FINE*** WITH ME!

THE ***HEAT*** FROM ALL THAT BURNING ***FUEL*** MIGHT'VE ***FRIED ME***--EVEN UP ***HERE.***

THE ONLY ***HASSLE*** IS--

--GETTING DOWN!

--SOOO, IT'S TIME I WEBBED ME A FAST ***DROP-CHUTE*** BEFORE--

THIT!

THIT!

THIT??

THERE'S ONLY ***TWO THINGS*** THAT CAN PRODUCE A SOUND LIKE ***THAT!***

A BROKEN WEB-SHOOTER-- AND ***ANOTHER*** BROKEN WEB-SHOOTER.

THE BLAST MUST HAVE SOMEHOW ***FUSED*** THE ***NOZZLES***-- PREVENTING THE WEB-FLUID FROM ***FLOWING!***

LUCKY ***ME!***

I'LL BET THERE'S NOT EVEN A PUDDLE OF ***WATER*** IN THAT ***GRAVEYARD*** DOWN THERE THAT I COULD TRY AND ***AIM FOR!***

IT'S ***FUNNY!*** I ALWAYS ***KNEW*** IT WOULD ***END*** SOMEDAY--

--BUT I NEVER THOUGHT THE LAST ***SOUND*** I'D EVER ***HEAR*** WOULD BE ONE BIG--

NEED A ***HAND,*** WALL-CRAWLER?

HUH?? IRON MAN!

YOU'RE NOT THE ***SPLAT*** I WAS EXPECTING!

SORRY TO ***DISAPPOINT*** YOU, WEBHEAD--

--BUT ***CALVARY CEMETERY*** IS CROWDED ***ENOUGH*** WITHOUT HAVING NEW ***ARRIVALS*** DROP IN FROM OUT OF THE ***SKY!***

DO YOU REALLY THINK THE PROBLEM'S THAT ***GRAVE,*** SHELLHEAD?

I SHOULD HAVE LET YOU ***DROP!***

NO TIME TO THINK OF BETTER PUNS-- HALF THE CITY *IS* IN FLAMES! WE BETTER--

RELAX! I HAD THE AREA EVACUATED THIS MORNING AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WAS STANDING BY ALL DAY. THERE'S NOTHING BACK THERE BUT EMPTY WAREHOUSES ANYWAY.

WHAT I WANT IS ***YOUR STORY!***

*MOMENTS **LATER...***

--AND THE LAST THING I ***SAW*** JUST BEFORE THE ***BIG BANG*** WAS ONE OF THOSE GAS-DRIVEN ***MODEL PLANES*** THAT RUN BY ***REMOTE CONTROL.***

EXCEPT ***THIS*** ONE DROPPED A ***BOMB!***

THERE'S STILL ONE ***OTHER*** EXPLANATION, SPIDER-MAN--

--AND THAT IS THAT ***YOU*** SET OFF THE ***EXPLOSION--!***

--THAT ***YOU*** BLEW UP STARK INTERNATIONAL'S JET ***FUEL TANK!***

YOU, WALL-CRAWLER!!

WHAT--?? HAVE YOU GOT ***RUST*** IN YOUR ***BUCKETS,*** TIN MAN?

I ONLY HAVE ***YOUR WORD*** FOR WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE, FRIEND, AND--

--AND **I'M** THE ONE JAMESON'S PAPER PLAYS UP AS THE BIGGEST **MENACE** TO MANKIND SINCE THE LAST **ICE AGE!**

LISTEN, AVENGER-- THANKS FOR THE **SAVE** A FEW MINUTES AGO--

--BUT YOU CAN GO **STUFF IT!**

NOW **YOU** LISTEN, SPIDER-MAN! STARK ASKED ME TO **PROTECT** THAT FUEL--

AND BECAUSE YOU **BLEW IT** YOU'VE DECIDED YOU NEED A **FALL GUY!**

AWFULLY **CON-VENIENT** THAT I JUST "**HAPPENED ALONG,**" WASN'T IT?

ALL I WANT IS AN **ANSWER** TO ONE **QUESTION,** WALL-CRAWLER!

DID YOU EVER SEE THIS **NOTE** BEFORE?

STARK AERO· FUEL DRUM I'LL BE THERE L.I.C. Tonite WILL YOU?

SURE--ON EVERY OLD **PERRY MASON** SHOW!

THIS IS NO **JOKE,** SPIDER-MAN! LOOK, I'VE **FOUGHT** BESIDE YOU. YOU EVEN SAVED MY **LIFE,** ALONG WITH THE OTHER AVENGERS.

BUT YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A **LONER!** I CAN'T THINK OF **ANYONE** WHO CAN CLAIM TO REALLY **KNOW** YOU!

BATTLING **KANG** AND THE **TOMORROW MAN,** **MTU #9** -- MARV.

MAYBE THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S NO ONE'S **BUSINESS,** SHELL-HEAD!

I MEAN, OF **ALL** THE AVENGERS, IT'S **YOU** AND **THOR** THAT GET ME **MOST!** THE HIGH AND MIGHTY **FOUNDING FATHERS** OF A VENERABLE OLD **TEAM**--

--PREACHING ABOUT RESPECTING EACH OTHER'S **PRIVACY**--AND THEN COMING DOWN ON **ME** BECAUSE I LIKE TO HOLD ONTO **MINE!**

ASK THE **VISION** OR THE **SCARLET WITCH** OR **MOONDRAGON** WHICH **SIDE** I'M ON, PAL--

--AND THEN TAKE YOUR **SUSPICIONS** AND **BUZZ OFF!**

SPIDEY'S MET 'EM **ALL** RIGHT HERE IN **MTU** (#'S 41-44) --MARV

BOYS, **BOYS!** IT'S TOO **HOT** A NIGHT FOR **FIGHTING!**

ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE **BOTH** SO FAR **OFF BASE** THAT YOU'RE COMPLETELY OUT OF THE BALLPARK!

WHO--??

YOU SOUND LIKE AN **OWL** WHEN YOU DO THAT, WALL-CRAWLER.

IT DON'T **SUIT** YOU.

HERE'S THAT **TOY PLANE** THE HERO WAS **TELLIN'** YOU ABOUT, AVENGER --WHICH TAKES CARE OF **HIS** STORY.

NOW LET'S SEE THAT **NOTE** YOU'RE TOTIN' AROUND.

YOU **KNOW** ABOUT THE LETTER?

THAT **RUST** IS SPREADING TO YOUR **EARS** NOW, SHELL-HEAD!

YEAH. I **KNOW** ABOUT IT, IRON MAN

STARK'S NOT THE **ONLY** ONE WHO'S GOT HIMSELF A HIDDEN **PEN-PAL.**

WE GET A **LOT** OF THESE DOWN AT **HEAD-QUARTERS** THESE DAYS.

MY NAME'S DEWOLFF--

--POLICE **CAPTAIN JEAN DEWOLFF!**

IF YOU DON'T DO WHAT I WANT...

Capt. Jean DeWolff NYPD

CITATION

FIVE **LETTERS**-- FIVE **EXPLOSIONS.** ALL IN THE LAST **MONTH.**

DO THEY **MATCH,** AVENGER?

THEY **MATCH,** CAPTAIN.

I **THOUGHT** THEY WOULD.

SOMETHING ABOUT THIS **PLANE**--

--SEEMS KIND OF **ODD** THAT OUR BOMBER WOULD LEAVE SUCH A SUBSTANTIAL **CLUE** FOR THE POLICE ANALYSIS LABS.

UNLESS--

I KNEW IT! THERE GOES THE **OLD SPIDER SENSE** AGAIN! THIS THING IS--

B'WOOM

--BOOBY-TRAPPED!!

IRON MAN'S ARMOR'LL PROTECT HIM! BUT YOU, CAPTAIN--

OHHH!

--YOU'RE A LOT SOFTER, IF YOU DON'T MIND MY SAYING!

THAT'S SOME STYLE YOU GOT THERE, WALL-CRAWLER! LIGHT AS A HEIFER!

I MEAN-- FEATHER!

I GET THE IDEA, CAPTAIN!

YEAH? WELL-- THANKS ALL THE SAME!

THE PLANE'S TOTALLY DESTROYED!

EVEN THE REMAINING PIECES ARE BURNING THEMSELVES UP!

THAT FITS THE PATTERN.

IS THERE ANYTHING THAT DOESN'T FIT?

UH-HUH. YOU TWO!

SO FAR THIS HAS BEEN A POLICE OPERATION-- AND WE'VE BEEN UNABLE TO TURN UP A THING!

YOU BOYS THINK YOU CAN SETTLE YOUR DIFFERENCES LONG ENOUGH TO LEND US A HAND?

SHELL-HEAD?

I GUESS SO, SPIDER-MAN--

--BUT ONLY IF YOU GIVE ME A CHANCE TO APOLOGIZE FOR GOING A BIT OVERBOARD BEFORE!

THE MOON HAS SLOWLY BEEN RISING OVER THE CEMETERY, CASTING LONG SHADOWS OVER THE GRAVES OF THE DEAD AND ALL IS QUIET...

YET AS OUR STARS TAKE THEIR LEAVE...

...ONE SHADOW BEGINS TO MOVE--

--WINDING ITS EERIE WAY TOWARDS A CERTAIN MAUSOLEUM...

...WHERE IT STOPS, AS IF HAVING FOUND WHAT IT SEEKS.

A GLOVED HAND REACHES FOR A LATCH.

THE LATCH IS OPENED.

AND THE SHADOW BLENDS INTO THE DEEPER DARKNESS OF A GREATER SHADOW--

--THE SHADOW OF DEATH, LYING BURIED BENEATH THE EARTH OF A GRAVEYARD.

THE MAUSOLEUM DOOR CLOSES, CUTTING OFF THE LAUGHTER RINGING FAR WITHIN.

MANHATTAN: A SHORT RIDE OVER THE 59TH STREET BRIDGE.

ESPECIALLY AT 95 MILES AN HOUR!

I'VE NOTICED AT LEAST THREE PATROL CARS START AFTER US--THEN APPEAR TO THINK ABOUT IT, AND TURN BACK!

AHEM! PARDON ME, LADY--

--BUT THERE ARE SPEED LIMITS IN THIS TOWN, YOU KNOW!

THEY KNOW MY ROADSTER, IRON MAN!

TRAFFIC CLEARANCE IS ONE OF THE FRINGE BENEFITS OF MY JOB!

ONE OF THE FEW!

BESIDES-- I'M IN A HURRY!

AND MINUTES SAVED SOLVING THIS MAD BOMBER CASE--COULD MEAN DOZENS LESS DEAD CITIZENS!

5TH. PRECINCT

AH! THIS MUST BE THE PLACE!

SKREEEEEEE

UH, TEACHER? CAN I RAISE A *POINT?*

SOME FOLK STILL LABOR UNDER THE *IMPRESSION* THAT I'M *WANTED* BY THE *POLICE,* AND--

DON'T YOU *WORRY* ABOUT IT, HONEY.

JUST TELL 'EM YOU'RE WITH *ME!*

GRADY! ARE THOSE *FILM-CLIPS* I CALLED IN ABOUT *PROCESSED YET?*

YESSIR. I MEAN --YES *MA'AM,* CAPTAIN DEWOLF...*SIR!* THE LAB BOYS ARE PUTTING THE CARTRIDGES INTO YOUR PROJECTOR NOW!

YOU BOYS MIND *WAITING* A MINUTE?

NOT A *BIT,* CAP!

THANKS. IT WON'T TAKE *LONG.*

GRADY, WHY IS IT THAT EVERY TIME I ASK YOU A *QUESTION* I GET TREATED TO A DISPLAY OF YOUR VAST *WIT* ALONG WITH THE *ANSWER?*

WHY, MISS DEWOLFF! I'M JUST WATCHIN' *OUT* FOR YOU--

--LIKE YOUR *DADDY*--THE *EX*-COMMISSIONER-- *ASKED* ME TO!

LIKE YOU *SAID,* GRADY--THE *EX*-COMMISSIONER! TWO YEARS *RETIRED!*

WHILE *I* AM VERY MUCH IN *CHARGE* OF THIS *PRECINCT*--

--HAND-PICKED BY THE *PRESENT* COMMISSIONER WHO OWED MY FATHER *NOTHING*--

--WHILE *YOU,* GRADY, ARE MERELY AN EX-*DESK SERGEANT!*

EX?

THAT'S *RIGHT,* PATROLMAN!

I TRUST YOU'LL HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME TO PERFECT YOUR "*WIT*" WHILE WALKING A *BEAT!*

Y-YESSIR... *CAPTAIN!*

WE CAN GO ON *IN* NOW, BOYS!

LEAD THE *WAY,* MA'AM!

WHAT'D I *DO?*

YOU MADE THE MISTAKE OF TREATIN' *HER* THE WAY YOU TREAT THE *REST* OF US, SERGEANT!

'CEPT--UNLIKE *US*--SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO *TAKE IT!*

BUT MAYBE YOU'LL *LEARN*-- WHILE YOU'RE *WALKIN'!*

YOU REALLY KEEP A TIGHT **REIGN** ON THINGS, DON'T YOU, CAPTAIN?

I **HAVE** TO, IRON MAN! NOT ONLY DO I HAVE TO LIVE IN THE **SHADOW** OF A FATHER WHO WAS ONE OF THE **TOUGHEST** COPS THIS CITY EVER **SAW,** BUT--

--LET'S FACE IT! I'M A **WOMAN**--IN A JOB THAT'S TAILOR-MADE FOR A **MAN!**

YOU SEEM TO BE DOING JUST **FINE,** CAPTAIN.

OKAY. ENOUGH WITH **MY** PROBLEMS, HUH?

WE'VE GOT A MAD **BOMBER** RUNNING AROUND OUT THERE TO **WORRY** ABOUT!

CLICK!

SSHHH

HHHSS

SO JUST SIT **BACK** AND WATCH THE **SHOW--**

--COURTESY OF A FEW LITTLE **TOYS** LENT TO THE **NYPD** BY A GENT NAMED **FURY!**

WHIRR

HE ASKED ME TO **ACCEPT** THEM IN RETURN FOR A... **PERSONAL** FAVOR I ONCE DID HIM.

I HEAR **TONY STARK** HIMSELF DESIGNED THIS **SYSTEM.**

SO **THIS** IS THE **"FRIEND"** NICK ASKED ME TO TOOL UP THOSE **"TOYS"** FOR!

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO **ASK** HIM ABOUT THIS, ONE OF THESE DAYS!

DO WE GET **POPCORN** WITH THIS SHOW, CAP?

THIS ISN'T **"GRIZZLY ADAMS,"** WALL-CRAWLER!

HALLELUJAH!

DON'T BOTHER GETTING THE **LIGHTS.** THE **PROJECTOR-MECHANISM** TAKES CARE OF **THAT!**

ALL RIGHT, HERE WE **GO!**

"THE HOME OF **MAX VORSTER** IN WEST-CHESTER, NEW YORK.

"MAX WAS A **VERY** WEALTHY **NYC SLUMLORD.**

"I SAY **WAS** BECAUSE HE WAS **IN** THE HOUSE WHEN **THIS** PICTURE WAS **TAKEN.**

"WHAT WAS **LEFT** OF HIM.

"NOW THIS FILM WAS TAKEN BY A TV NEWSMAN WHO TAGGED ALONG WITH THE POLICE WHEN THEY RESPONDED--TOO LATE--TO A **CALL** FROM VORSTER, WHO CLAIMED HIS **LIFE** HAD BEEN THREATENED.

"NOTICE THE TOY **PLANE** IN THE FOREGROUND.

"THERE! THE PLANE IS **DESTROYING** ITSELF JUST LIKE THE ONE IN THE **GRAVEYARD** TONIGHT!

"TWO OF MY BEST MEN-- **KILLED.**

"BUT NOW WE GO **BACK** A FEW **FRAMES**--TO WHEN THE POLICE FIRST **ARRIVED.**

"SEE THE **DARK FIGURE** BEHIND THE OFFICER IN THIS BLOW-UP?"

HE SEEMS TO BE WEARING A **HOOD** OR SOMETHING!

--OR A **MASK!** THE KIND OF THING YOU'D **REMEMBER,** RIGHT?

FUNNY THING **IS**--NO ONE **DID!**

"OKAY, NEXT SCENE. **COSMOPOLITAN BANK & TRUST** IN MANHATTAN --TWO **DAYS** AGO.

"THE BANK'S **OWN CAMERAS** SHOT THIS **FOOTAGE.**

"WE PUT TOGETHER THE **PIECES** THAT WERE **LEFT** JUST THIS **MORNING."**

"LOOK! SOME KIND OF **SHADOW** OVER THE **TEL-LER'S GATE!**

"OH, LORD!!"

"FIFTEEN PEOPLE **KILLED,** SPIDER-MAN...ANOTHER TWENTY-TWO **INJURED.**

"BUT THE CAMERA KEPT SHOOTING AWAY **LONG ENOUGH--**

"--TO GET **THIS** ON FILM!"

"LOOKS LIKE OUR **'MASKED MAN'** AGAIN."

"OR IT **DID** UNTIL HE STUCK HIS **HAND** IN FRONT OF THE **LENS** AND THEN **FINISHED** SMASHING THE **CAMERA!"**

SHOW'S **OVER!** IT'S TIME FOR **TWENTY QUESTIONS!**

NO--JUST **ONE!** DOESN'T ANYBODY HAVE **ANY** IDEA WHO THIS CREEP **IS?**

NOPE. NEXT QUESTION.

THE REALLY **ODD** PART OF ALL THIS IS THAT NO ONE RECOLLECTS EVER HAVING **SEEN** A MAN WITH A **MASK** AT EITHER **PLACE**--

-- WHICH IS JUST THE KIND OF THING MOST PEOPLE **WOULD** NOTICE!

CAN I TAKE A LOOK AT THOSE **LETTERS,** CAPTAIN?

SURE. BUT I ALREADY SEE YOUR **ANGLE,** AVENGER--AND WE'VE **CHECKED IT!**

YOU WANT **ANOTHER** MYSTERY?

DIE YOU WILL BLOW UP TONIGHT! I KILL I DESTROY

THE LETTERS ARE ON **OFFICIAL POLICE STATIONERY**--

--AND ALL THE **SCRAPS** HE USED TO SPELL OUT HIS **MESSAGE** ARE FROM A PAPER CALLED THE **GAZETTE!**

A SEMI-OFFICIAL **TRADE NEWSPAPER** THAT CATERS **SPECIFICALLY** TO **NYC COPS!**

CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER!

AGREED, WEBHEAD--EXCEPT THAT OUR KILLER AIN'T **"ALICE"** AND THIS AIN'T **WONDERLAND!"**

--AND MORE THAN **PAPER-HEADS** WILL **ROLL** IF HE STRIKES **AGAIN!**

SO WHERE DO WE **START?**

I MEAN--WHAT HAVE WE GOT TO **WORK WITH?** THERE'S NO **MOTIVE,** NO **REASONING** BEHIND **ANY** OF THE **ATTACKS!**

--OR **IS** THERE?

YOU SOUND LIKE YOU JUST GOT AN **IDEA,** HERO!

YEAH. MAYBE I **HAVE!** LOOK--WHAT'S BEEN IN ALL THE **NEWS** LATELY?

CORRUPTION, THAT'S WHAT!

CORPORATE **BRIBES--BANK SCANDALS--LANDLORDS** PROFITTING ILLEGALLY FROM A BANKRUPT **CITY!**

I KNOW IT'S **FAR-FETCHED**, BUT WHAT IF--

WAIT! I'M **SENSING** SOMETHING!

EVERYBODY--

SKRASH

TIK TIK TIK

--GET DOWN!!

ANOTHER PLANE --AND IT'S TICKING!!

BUT IF IT EXPLODES IN **HERE!**

POW! **POW!**

OH, DEAR LORD--**NO!**

I DON'T WANT TO DIE!!

BULLETS AREN'T GONNA **STOP** THAT THING, CAP--

WHRRR

TIK TIK TIK

--AND THEY MAY EVEN SET IF **OFF!**

SO CUT IT **OUT** AND STAY **DOWN!**

MOVE AWAY FROM THE **WINDOW,** SPIDER-MAN--

STROW!

--WHILE I SEE IF A **REPULSOR BLAST** CAN RID THE ROOM OF OUR WINGED **ATTACKER!**

KSSHOOM!

YOU **DID IT,** SHELL-HEAD! **IT'S OUT!!**

BUT IT'S STILL **ARMED!** I CAN'T LET IT DETONATE DOWN IN THE **STREET!**

HOLD THE **FORT--** WHILE I DEFUSE A **BOMB!**

ROTSA **RUCK,** CHUM!

YOU ALL *RIGHT*, CAP?

OF *COURSE* I AM! I--I JUST *PANICKED*-- THAT'S ALL!

SURE! HAPPENS TO THE *BEST* OF US!

BUT WITH SHELL-HEAD GONE I CAN'T JUST *SIT HERE!*

THAT *"BIRD"* WAS AIR MAILED FROM ACROSS THE *STREET!*

AND I AIM TO GRAB THE SENDER!

IF ANYTHING *HAPPENS* TO ME, CAPTAIN--CALL A *COP!*

*ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STREET, A **TRIGGER** IS SQUEEZED...*

WUMPF

*AND THE **LEDGE** SPIDER-MAN MEANT TO **LAND** UPON...*

...DISAPPEARS!

HOLY SMOKES!!

BAWHOOM!

IT'S A GOOD THING I REPAIRED MY *WEB-SHOOTERS* ON THE WAY IN FROM LONG ISLAND!

THAP!

--OTHERWISE I'D BE EVERY-ONE'S FAVORITE WALL-CRAWLER-- *DECEASED*--RIGHT ABOUT NOW!

SO IF LAUGHING BOY ON THE *ROOF* UP THERE WAS HOPING I'D END UP SHATTERED ALL OVER THE *SIDEWALK*--

--HE'D BETTER HOPE *AGAIN!*

'CAUSE HERE I COME, KILLER!

AND IF YOU THOUGHT I WAS MAD *BEFORE*--

--MISTER, YOU AIN'T SEEN *NUTHIN' YET!!*

I HEARD THAT SHELL EXPLODE--

--BUT I CAN'T STOP TO HELP SPIDER-MAN ***NOW!***

NOT WITH A ***LIVE BOMB*** FLUTTERING DOWN TOWARD A CROWDED STREET!

IT ***STOPPED TICK-ING!*** IT PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE BLOWN SECONDS AGO--MAY-BE THE TIMER WAS DAMAGED BY MY REPULSOR BLAST!

CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE! GOT TO ***REMOVE IT*** TO WHERE IT WON'T DO ANY ***HARM!***

AND THE NEAREST ***WIDE OPEN AREA*** IS ***STRAIGHT UP!***

TIK TIK TIK

OH, NO! MUST HAVE JARRED IT--

IT'S TICKING AGAIN!

KA-ROOM!

EARLIER THIS EVENING THE GOLDEN AVENGER WAS CAUGHT AS A SIMILAR PLANE ***EXPLODED*** --DESTROYING ***ITSELF.***

BUT ***THIS*** PLANE IS ARMED TO DE-STROY ALL THOSE IN ***CLOSE PROXIMITY*** AS WELL...

...EVEN THOSE ENCASED IN ***DEFENSIVE ARMOR.***

THE MAN WHO ***BORE*** THE BOMB UPWARDS IN THE ***FIRST PLACE*** --

--REALIZES, AS CON-SCIOUSNESS ***DEPARTS,*** THAT HE'S JUST BEEN ***BLOWN*** OUT OF THE ***HEAVENS...***

...AND IS PLUMMET-ING ***RAPIDLY*** TOWARDS ***HELL!***

WRAAAM!

BUT THAT HASN'T **HAPPENED** YET, AND **WON'T** FOR ANOTHER FEW **SECONDS.**

STAY WHERE YOU **ARE,** KILLER!

IF I HAVE TO COME **LOOKING** FOR YOU I'LL JUST GET **MADDER!**

I'M NOT **GOING** ANYWHERE, WALL-CRAWLER!

WHAT? GRABBING MY **WRISTS!** PULLING ME **AWAY** FROM THE **WALL!** BUT WHY DIDN'T--?!

WHY DIDN'T YOUR SPIDER-SENSE **WARN** YOU OF YOUR IMPENDING **DANGER? THAT,** MY WEBBED VIGILANTE IS FOR ME **ALONE** TO KNOW!

ALL THAT **YOU** NEED KNOW IS THAT YOU ARE GOING TO **DIE--**

--AND THAT I AM CALLED-- THE WRAITH!

SQUEEZING MY **WRISTS**--THEY'RE GONNA BREAK! I--I CAN'T **FIGHT HIM!** SOMETHING'S **STOPPING ME!**

HE'S GOING TO **KILL ME** AND I CAN'T **FIGHT HIM!!**

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

WHAT IN GOD'S NAME DO YOU WANT?

NEXT ISSUE: THE **MYSTERY OF THE WRAITH!**

MARVEL TEAM-UP

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

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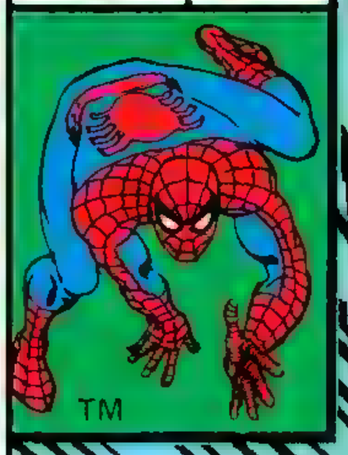

MARVEL TEAM-UP™

SPIDER-MAN AND IRON MAN

SORRY, WEB-SLINGER, BUT...YOU'VE GOT TO DIE!

IRON MAN! HAVE YOU GONE MAD? YOU CAN'T...CAN'T...

UNDER THE POWER OF THE WRAITH!

ROMITA + BRADFORD

Stan Lee presents SPIDEY and IRON MAN--TOGETHER!

MADNESS IS ALL IN THE MIND!

LAST ISSUE: HE CALLED HIMSELF THE WRAITH, AND A BOMB MOUNTED ON A TOY PLANE THROWN FROM HIS HAND CAUGHT THE GOLDEN AVENGER KNOWN AS IRON MAN HIGH ABOVE THE CITY--

--AND THE ENSUING BLAST KNOCKED SHELL-HEAD CLEAR DOWN THROUGH THE STREET--

--WHILE EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE WALL-CRAWLER FOUND HIS WRISTS CAUGHT IN A GRIP OF STEEL-- UNABLE TO FREE HIMSELF--

--AND UNABLE TO EXPLAIN WHY HIS SPIDER-SENSE HADN'T WARNED HIM OF HIS MYSTERIOUS FOEMAN'S LURKING PRESENCE-- UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE!

HER NAME'S JEAN DEWOLFF--POLICE CAPTAIN OF THE 37TH PRECINCT, MANHATTAN.

AND SHE'S JUST FOUND HERSELF TRAPPED IN AN UNORTHODOX AND DEADLY GAME-- ONE THAT MAY PUSH HER TO THE BRINK OF MADNESS!

AND IF ALL THAT HASN'T GRABBED YOU-- BROTHER, MAYBE YOU SHOULD BE READING MILLIE THE MODEL!

BILL MANTLO / STORY | SAL BUSCEMA & MIKE ESPOSITO / ART | JOHN COSTANZA, letters / PHIL RACHELSON, colors | ARCHIE GOODWIN / EDITOR

STUPID, STARK-- LETTING THAT BLAST CATCH YOU LIKE THAT!

YOU'VE BEEN... A SUPER-HERO... LONG ENOUGH!

YOU'D THINK YOU'D... LEARN!

ARMOR ABSORBED MOST OF... SHOCK--

--BUT HEAD'S... RINGING!

GOT TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER! GET BACK UP TO... SPIDER-MAN!

BUT I HIT STREET... HARD!

SO...

HARD.

SHELL-HEAD!

PASSERSBY STARE, UNABLE TO RELINQUISH THE SAFE ANONYMITY OF THE CROWD AND COME TO THE AID OF A FELLOW BEING.

HE--HE AIN'T MOVIN'!

WHAT'RE YOU GETTING INVOLVED FOR?

NOBODY ASKED HIM TO GET HURT!

BUT THERE ARE SOME FOR WHOM THE MUTUAL BONDS OF MEN ARE STRONG-- LINKING EACH OF US TO THE FATES OF OUR BROTHERS.

YEAH, AN' NOBODY'S ASKIN' YOU TO HELP, PALLY! SO WHY DON'T-CHA BEAT IT--

--'FORE I GET MAD!

CRIPES! HIS HELMET MUST BE BOLTED ON!

LEAVE IT ALONE, YOU FOOL! WHAT IF IT'S BOOBY-TRAPPED?

NAH! YA THINK HE'D RIG IT TO BLOW HIS OWN HEAD OFF? IT MUST BE MAG-NETIZED OR SOMETHIN'!

BUT HOW CAN I TELL IF HE'S BREATHIN' IF I CAN'T GET THE BLAMED THING OFF?

LOOK UP THERE!

IF CHARLIE HACKER IS BEGINNING TO WISH HE WAS BACK CRUISING IN HIS CAB...

...JUST IMAGINE WHERE OUR WALL-CRAWLING WONDER WISHES HE WERE JUST NOW!

I'M SORRY FOR YOU, SPIDER-MAN!

YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE GOTTEN INVOLVED IN THIS! IT DIDN'T CONCERN YOU!

I'VE NEVER FELT SUCH A GRIP! NOT EVEN WHEN I TACKLED THE HULK!

HE'S-- BREAKING MY WRISTS!

WHO IS HE? HOW'D HE GET SUCH POWER!

AND HOW AM I GOING TO GET AWAY FROM HIM-- MUCH LESS STOP HIM?

THOSE ARE QUESTIONS YOU WILL CARRY WITH YOU TO YOUR GRAVE, WALL-CRAWLER.

WHAT!? HOW DID YOU--

KNOW WHAT YOU WERE THINKING? IT WAS QUITE SIMPLE, REALLY!

A SIMPLE SLEIGHT OF MIND, SPIDER-MAN!

AS EASY AS REMOVING THE PARAMETERS OF YOUR REALITY FROM YOU--LEAVING YOU DESPERATELY CLAWING FOR A FOOTHOLD IN THE AIR!

THINK, SPIDER-MAN! WHY DIDN'T YOUR MUCH-VAUNTED SPIDER-SENSE WARN YOU OF MY IMPENDING ATTACK?

AND THE PAIN IN YOUR WRISTS! SURELY I WOULD NEED TO BE SUPER-HUMAN TO GRIND YOUR VERY BONES IN SUCH A MANNER!

UNLESS IT WERE ALL IN YOUR--

--MIND!

YOU'RE THINKING THAT IT ISN'T POSSIBLE, MY FRIEND? WELL, THEN--

--SEE FOR YOURSELF!

HE DROPPED ME!

MY HANDS ARE FREE!

DOESN'T HE REALIZE THAT I CAN JUST SHOOT OUT MY WEBBING AND--

--LORD! EVERYTHING'S GONE CRAZY!

BUILDINGS MOVING!

MY WEBBING WON'T SHOOT WHERE I AIM IT!

ALL I CAN DO IS--

--WAIT! IRON MAN'S READY TO CATCH ME!

DON'T WORRY, SPIDEY! I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU--

--FALL, INSECT!

HA HA HA HA

SHELL-HEAD! WHAT--??

IRON MAN! HELP!

CATCH ME!

IRON MA--

WHAP!

SPDRMN?

WKUP, SPDRMN!

W-WHO--?

AH--YOU'RE BACK!

DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT I *SAID*, MY FRIEND?

REMEMBER?

YES! *REMEMBER!*

IT'S ALL IN YOUR *MIND*, MY BOY!

ALL IN YOUR--

--*MIND!*

I'M ALIVE!

IT WAS ALL IN MY MIND!

PRECISELY. I AM NO LIAR, SPIDER-MAN-- AND I WILL NOT BE *TURNED* FROM THAT WHICH I *SEEK!*

I WILL BROOK NO FURTHER *INTERFERENCE!*

INTERFERENCE?

MISTER, I DON'T EVEN *KNOW* WHAT IT IS YOU'RE *AFTER!*

YOU HAVE ALREADY TASTED THAT WHICH I AM *CAPABLE* OF, MY FRIEND. SEEK TO KNOW NO *MORE*, ELSE--

BLAM!

ZING

ZING

PEEOW!

WHO--??

LET THE MAN *GO*, BUSTER!

OR YOU'RE GONNA SPORT *MORE HOLES* THAN A PIECE OF *SWISS CHEESE!*

AM I, YOUNG LADY?

I THINK *NOT!*

ALL RIGHT, BUB! DON'T SAY I DIDN'T--

--WARN--

--YOU--

WHAT IN HEAVEN ARE YOU DOING TO ME!??

THE SAME THING HE TRIED ON *ME*, JEAN!

WHAT--?

THE PAIN IN MY *HANDS* IS SUDDENLY *GONE!*

WHICH LEADS ME TO THE *CON-CLUSION* THAT CHUCKLES HERE CAN ONLY WORK ON *ONE* MIND AT A *TIME!*

WHAM

AND HE SHOULD'VE STUCK WITH *MINE!*

ISN'T THAT *RIGHT*--

--CHUCKLES?

YOU WILL *PAY* FOR THAT, SPIDER-MAN!

YOU SHALL PAY FOR THAT *DEARLY!*

OH, *MERCY* ME, MISTER BAD MAN!

IS THAT A *THWEAT?*

NO, YOU COSTUMED *BUFFOON!*

WHACK!

IT IS A *REALITY!*

NOT *BAD*, WRAITH!

IN FACT--I KNOW A COUPLE OF GUYS NAMED *MYSTERIO* AND *MIRAGE* WHO MIGHT LIKE TO SWAP *TRICKS* WITH YOU--

HUH? WHERE--?

--ONCE YOU *JOIN* THEM IN *JAIL!*

LIKE I *SAID*, SPOOKY! NOT BAD AT *ALL!*

NOW LET'S SEE WHAT--

SPIDER-MAN! KEEP AWAY FROM HIM!

AH! IT SEEMS I HAVE A PROTECTRESS!

SHUT UP, YOU!

I'M PUTTING YOU UNDER ARREST--

--AND YOU TRY THAT TRICK OF YOURS ONE MORE TIME AND I'M GOING TO BLOW YOU ALL OVER NEW YORK!

TRICK?

MADEMOISELLE, I ASSURE YOU-- WHAT I DO IS NO MERE TRICK!

OR IF ASSURANCES ARE DEVOID OF MEANING--

--PERHAPS A DEMONSTRATION WOULD BE IN ORDER!

OH... MY...

...GOD!

STOP IT, DAMN YOU!

STOP IT!

BUT IT DOESN'T STOP. ICY FINGERS CLAW THE CHANNELS OF HER MIND, COUNTER-MANDING HER OWN BRAIN RELAYS.

--FORCING HER TO GO AGAINST HER OWN WILL.

JEAN!

NOW, MY DEAR--

--YOU MAY RID OUR CITY OF WHAT THE BUGLE CALLS OUR "MASKED MENACE!"

SHOOT SPIDER-MAN!

A LONG, LOW WAIL BREAKS FROM JEAN DEWOLFF'S CONSTRICTED THROAT...

...BUT IT GOES UNHEARD ON THE STREET BELOW.

AW, C'MON, SHELL-HEAD!

I AIN'T GOT SO MUCH AS A BLASTED CAN-OPENER BACK IN TH' HACK!

AN' YER TOO HEAVY TO LUG ACROSS THE STREET ALL BY MY LONE-SOME!

SO WHY DON'TCHA BE A *SPORT!* Y'KNOW--LIKE *GRUNT* OR SOMETHIN'!

JUST SO'S I KNOW YOUSE IS *ALIVE*--AN' I AIN'T GOIN' THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE FER *NUTHIN'*!

SORRY--I NEVER DO REQUESTS, HOW ABOUT IF I *TAP DANCE* INSTEAD?

BLAZES!

YOU--YER *ALIVE!*

JUST... *BARELY!* HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN *OUT?*

TOO LONG, PALLY!

'CAUSE WHILE YOU BEEN *SNOOZIN'*, YER BUDDY'S BEEN GETTIN' HIS *TAIL* WALLOPED UP *TOP!*

SPIDER-MAN?

I'M *ALL RIGHT!* JUST A LITTLE--

RIGHT AS *RAIN*, CHUM! BUT *YOU* DON'T LOOK IN SUCH HOT *SHAPE* TO--

--DIZZY!

THEN LEMME GIVE YA A *HAND*, SHELL-HEAD! LEAN ON *ME* 'TIL YA GET YERSELF *TOGETH*--

NO! MANY *THANKS*, FRIEND--FOR ALL YOU'VE *DONE*--

--BUT NOW IT'S UP TO *ME!*

ALONE!

AND ON THE ROOF ABOVE...

WELL, WOMAN? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU MUST DO!

YOUR MIND IS INSTRUCTING YOU TO BE ON WITH IT!

NO! YOU CAN'T MAKE ME DO THIS!

I WON'T LET YOU!!

I-- WON'T--

THE WRAITH IS TOYING WITH HER-- THE SAME WAY HE PLAYED WITH ME!

I COULD JUMP HIM NOW-- BUT SOMETHING'S TELLING ME TO KEEP OUT OF IT--

--TO LET HER BREAK HIS HOLD BY HERSELF!

"BESIDES--I CAN ALWAYS DODGE IF HE DOES MAKE HER--

KROW

"--FIRE!"

POSING FOR A TURKEY-SHOOT, WALL-CRAWLER--?

--OR AUDITIONING FOR DEATH WISH II?

KTING!

PING!

IRON MAN!!

YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUT OF MY MOUTH, SPOOKY!

SUPPOSE YOU FILL ME IN ON OUR FRIENDS GAME, WEBHEAD!

BE GLAD TO, I.M. IT'S A REAL MIND-BLOWER!

AND IN A WINDOW OF THE 37TH PRECINCT, DIRECTLY ACROSS THE STREET--

--THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THAT PRECINCT FEELS HER MIND BEING SLOWLY RETURNED TO HER.

AND THE FEELING LEAVES HER DRAINED.

LOOK OUT, SHELLHEAD! HE'S STARTING TO--

LEAVE, MY FRIENDS!

IT WOULD SEEM I HAVE OVER-EXTENDED MY *WELCOME!*

YOU'RE NOT GOING *ANY-WHERE,* MISTER! NOT WITHOUT--

--*SPIDER-MAN! WHAT THE DEVIL--??*

WHANG!

KER-WHAM!

I GUESS I SHOULD'VE *WARNED* YOU ABOUT LAUGHING BOY'S FAST *FADE-OUTS, I.M.*

ARE YOU ALL *RIGHT?*

SURE! NOTHING A CRATE OF *EXCEDRIN* COULDN'T CURE!

BUT WHERE'S OUR GHOSTLY *ATTACKER?*

ABOVE YOU, AVENGER!

YOU HADDA *ASK?*

IT IS TIME FOR ME TO BID YOU *ADIEU*, HEROES--

AND THOUGH I CANNOT ADEQUATELY EXPRESS MY *ANGER* AT HAVING ALLOWED YOU TO *DIVERT* ME FROM MY *PURPOSE*--

--I CAN *ASSAUGE* MY DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THERE WILL BE *OTHER* OPPORTUNITIES--

--AND THAT I HAVE *TIME* TO WAIT!

ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD!

SPIDER-MAN! HE'S FIRING SOME KIND OF *GAS PELLET!*

PFFT!

NO--NOT *GAS!* IT'S *SMOKE!*

MY PLEXI-GLASS SHIELDS ENABLES ME TO KEEP IT *OUT* OF MY ARMOR--

--BUT IT'S SO *THICK* WE CAN'T SEE THE *WRAITH!*

BUT WHY WOULD SOMEBODY WHO CAN *VANISH* AS EASILY AS HE DOES NEED A *SMOKE-SCREEN?*

MAYBE TO KEEP YOU FROM USING YOUR *SPIDER-SENSE* TO TRACK *HIM*--

--BY FORCING YOU TO USE IT TO GET US *FREE* OF THIS *SMOKE!*

SOUNDS *GOOD*, AVENGER--

--AND IT SOUNDS *RIGHT!*

HE'S GONE!

FOR THE *NIGHT*, I SUPPOSE-- LEAVING US EXACTLY *NOWHERE!*

AND WHILE A FAST SCAN OVER THE ROOFTOPS REVEALS THE FUTILITY OF FURTHER SEARCHING TO SPIDEY AND THE GOLDEN AVENGER...

...LET'S US RETURN TO THE SAME OFFICE WHERE TONIGHT'S LITTLE MISADVENTURE BEGAN.

CAPTAIN DE WOLFF! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WE THOUGHT WE HEARD SHOTS, MA'AM!

YOU THOUGHT, BUGLISI?

MY OFFICE GETS DESTROYED! A BOMB GOES OFF RIGHT OUTSIDE THE WINDOW!

AND YOU JUST THINK YOU HEARD SHOTS!

WHERE THE HECK HAVE YOU BEEN, MISTER?!!

WHOA, CAP'N-- TAKE IT EASY!

SOMEBODY CHUCKED A FIRE-BOMB THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO!

WE'VE BEEN SO BUSY TRYING TO SNUFF THE FLAMES--

--YOU COULD'VE SHOT OFF A CANNON IN HERE WITHOUT US HEARIN' SO MUCH AS A SQUEAK!

OKAY, JOHNNY! I GET THE PICTURE!

ANY IDEA WHO OUR BOMBER MIGHT BE?

NO-- SKIP THAT QUESTION! I ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER!

DO YOU, MY DEAR?

UH--HELLO, COMMISSIONER!

EX-COMMIS-SIONER, MY BOY--

BUT IT'S NICE TO FIND THAT ONE'S REMEMBERED NONETHELESS!

AND NOW, MY DEAR-- BACK TO YOUR SUS-PICION! DO YOU BASE IT ON PURE DETECTIVE WORK?

OR IS IT NO MORE THAN AN ASTUTE GUESS?

WHY DON'T YOU CALL IT WOMAN'S INTUITION?

THAT'S ABOUT THE LEVEL YOU CONSIDER ME CAPABLE OF WORKING ON, ISN'T IT--

--FATHER?

NOW WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU'VE *COME* FOR, FATHER--

--AND THEN *LEAVE!*

NOW, NOW DAUGHTER-- THAT'S NO WAY TO *ACT!* AFTER ALL, *I* HOLD NO *BITTERNESS* TOWARDS YOU--

--EVEN THOUGH YOU OCCUPY A JOB THAT *SHOULD* HAVE BEEN YOUR BROTHER *BRIAN'S!*

MAYBE IT *SHOULD* HAVE, FATHER--AND MAYBE *NOT!* EITHER WAY, IT'S RATHER A *MOOT* POINT--

--WITH BRIAN BEING *DEAD*--

--AND THE *NEW* COMMISSIONER-- *YOUR* REPLACEMENT-- OBVIOUSLY NOT FEELING THE SAME *WAY!*

MY, BUT WE ARE *HARSH* TODAY, DAUGHTER!

STILL--THERE WAS *NEVER* MUCH LOVE *LOST* BE-TWEEN US, WAS THERE?

NO, FATHER. THERE *WASN'T!*

AND *THAT'S* NOT WHY YOU'RE *HERE!*

MY BET IS THAT YOU HEARD FROM ONE OF YOUR FLUNKIES STILL IN THE *DEPART-MENT* THAT MY PRECINCT WAS IN *TROUBLE*--

--AND YOU JUST DROPPED *BY* TO RUB A LITTLE *SALT* IN THE WOUND!

NOT AT *ALL,* MY DEAR! *TRUE*--I STILL MAIN-TAIN THAT POLICE WORK IS NO JOB FOR A *WOMAN*--

--AND I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT, HAD BRIAN *LIVED*-- THIS "*MAD-BOMBER*" CASE WOULD HAVE BEEN WRAPPED UP *LONG AGO*--

--BUT *THAT* WAS NOT MY PURPOSE IN COMING!

THIS PIECE OF *PAPER* WAS!

WHAT--?

BUS ESP

READ IT, DAUGHTER! IT WAS HANDED TO ONE OF MY *SER-VANTS* THIS MORNING!

UNFORTUNATELY, MY MAN WAS UNABLE TO *RECALL* ANYTHING ABOUT THE MESSENGER!

AND *I* THOUGHT THE WHOLE THING NOTHING MORE THAN A *JOKE*-- IN RATHER POOR *TASTE*--

--UNTIL I RECOGNIZED THE *FAMILIARITY* OF THE *HANDWRITING!*

NO!!

YOU'RE *MAD*, OLD MAN!

WHAT KIND OF BLASTED *GAME* DO YOU THINK YOU'RE *PLAYING??*

CALM YOURSELF, DAUGHTER! I FIND MYSELF AS *MYSTIFIED* AS YOU!

I WOULD CONSIDER THE NOTE NO MORE THAN A CLEVER *FRAUD*--

--WERE IT NOT SO *PERFECTLY* IN YOUR BROTHERS *SCRIPT!*

BUT MY BROTHER IS--

--*DEAD!* PRECISELY.

STILL-- *GHOSTS* DO NOT WRITE LETTERS TO THE *LIVING*--

--SAVE IN SORDID *NOVELS!*

--THIS MESSAGE: "*DAD, TELL JEAN I WANT THE JOB THAT SHOULD'VE BEEN MINE!*"

AND IT'S SIGNED: "*THE WRAITH!*"

WELL, IT FITS, DOESN'T IT?

JEAN? IS SOMETHING *WRONG*, DAUGHTER? YOU'VE GROWN SO *PALE*, MY DEAR!

BUT THEN, I IMAGINE YOU'VE SUFFERED SOMEWHAT OF A *SHOCK*-- AND I'LL LEAVE YOU TO *ABSORB* YOUR BROTHER'S MISSIVE!

AS YOU *KNOW*, DAUGHTER, I *NEVER* ACCEPTED BRIAN'S DEATH AS *FACT!*

NOT EVEN WHEN MY *REFUSAL* TO ACCEPT IT COST ME MY *JOB* AS *COMMISSIONER OF POLICE!*

SHALL I SEND IN ONE OF YOUR OFFICERS WITH A *BROOM*, MY DEAR? YOUR OFFICE IS QUITE A *MESS!*

AND THEN PHILLIP DEWOLFF IS GONE.

WHEW! HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY *EAVES-DROPPING*, JEAN--

--BUT THAT'S SOME *FATHER* YOU'VE GOT THERE!

JEAN?

THAT *SERIOUS*, HUH?

LOOK--*YOU* KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS WHOLE DEAL THAN *WE* DO--

--BUT YOUR OLD MAN WAS *RIGHT* IN ONE THING!

SOOO-- WE START AT THE *BIG QUESTION*--

GHOSTS DON'T WRITE *HATE-MAIL!*

--WHAT'S THIS STORY ON YOUR *BROTHER?* AND IS THERE ANY CHANCE HE'S STILL *ALIVE?*

NO! *NO!!* *NO!!*

OKAY. THAN EITHER WE'RE FIGHTING A *GHOST*--

--OR SOMEBODY'S GOT A WEIRD SENSE OF *HUMOR!*

AND THE WRAITH WAS NO *GHOST*, SHELLHEAD!

JEAN?

I'M... ALL RIGHT, SPIDER-MAN. *REALLY!*

I'M JUST TRYING TO FIGURE THIS WHOLE THING *OUT!* GET IT TO MAKE *SENSE!*

BUT IT *DOESN'T!*

FIRST: MY BROTHER *IS* DEAD! HE *MUST* BE!

SECOND: THERE WAS *NEVER* ANY KIND OF *RIVALRY* BETWEEN US!

SURE-- I *RESENTED* THE WAY MY FATHER *IGNORED* ME--SLIGHTING ME FOR *BRIAN*--

--BUT BRIAN AND I *LOVED* EACH OTHER, WALL-CRAWLER--

"--DESPITE MY FATHER'S HATRED OF ME!"

I HEAR MY LITTLE SISTER GRADUATES WITH HONORS TOMORROW!

SECOND HIGHEST GRADES AT THE ACAD-EMY, BRIAN--

--AFTER YOURS!

I'LL BET YOU'RE PROUD, DAD-- I MEAN, COM-MISSIONER!

I DON'T THINK HE--

I CAN ANSWER FOR MYSELF, DAUGHTER! NO, BRIAN-- I'M NOT PROUD! A WOMAN BELONGS AT HOME-- NOT IN A STATION-HOUSE!

NOT THAT OLD CHESTNUT AGAIN, DAD! THE FORCE IS CHANGING--

--AND IT NEEDS ALL THE HELP IT CAN GET-- FROM MEN AND WOMEN!

BRIAN WAS SO... OBLIVIOUS TO MY FATHER'S HATE-- ALWAYS CHALKING IT OFF AS STUB-BORNESS!

BUT I KNEW BETTER--

"--AND THEN IT DIDN'T MATTER ANYMORE!"

CAR 17-- DISTURBANCE NEAR SOUTH STREET SEAPORT! COVERAGE AT ONCE!

THAT'S US, TIM!

PROBABLY ANOTHER PROTEST RALLY, BRIAN, ME BOY!

"IT WAS A TRAP, HEROES-- AND THEY DROVE RIGHT INTO IT!

KSTRAM!

POLICE

BRIAN! LOOK OUT, BOY-O!

"THE CARS APPARENTLY HIT THEM FROM A SIDE STREET--"

TIM--?

"--AND WE SUSPECT THAT AT LEAST FIVE ATTACKERS STREAM-ED TOWARDS THE OVERTURNED PATROL CAR.

"BALLISTICS REPORTED THAT BRIAN'S GUN HAD BEEN FIRED FIVE TIMES--

KTOW!

"--AND THE FOUR BODIES AT THE SCENE BESIDES TIM'S--

"--SHOW THAT HE MISSED AT LEAST--

--ONCE!"

THE SICK THING *WAS*-- BRIAN'S *BODY* WAS NOWHERE TO BE *FOUND!*

I *GRADUATED* AND WAS APPOINTED TO THE 37TH THE NEXT DAY--AS ASSISTANT DETECTIVE IN CHARGE OF *INVESTI-GATING* THE DISAPPEARANCE--

--*OVER* PROTESTS BY MY FATHER!

WE FOUND *NOTHING!*

FOR *TWO YEARS* WE WAITED FOR *CONTACT! A RANSOM NOTE! ANYTHING!*

AND THEN THE CASE WAS *CLOSED!*

EXCUSE ME, BOYS! I--I THINK I'D LIKE TO BE *ALONE* RIGHT NOW!

SURE, JEAN!

WE'LL CHECK *BACK* TO SEE IF YOU *NEED* US!

AND IN THE CORRIDOR OUT-SIDE JEAN DEWOLFF'S OFFICE...

WELL, SHELLHEAD, WHAT *NOW?*

IF HER BROTHER'S *ALIVE,* WEBHEAD--AND IF HE IS THE WRAITH--THEN IT'S JUST A MATTER OF *TIME* BEFORE WE GET A *LEAD* ON HIM!

BUT IF WE *ARE* UP AGAINST A *GHOST*-- THEN WE'RE A BIT OUT OF *MY* LEAGUE, AND I SUGGEST WE GET OUR-SELVES SOME *HELP!*

FROM A *PROFESS-IONAL* IN SUPER-NATURAL MATTERS!

"A MAN CALLED--

DOCTOR STRANGE

NEXT ISSUE: THE WRAITH

THE HUNT FOR SHIFTS INTO HIGH GEAR... WITH A BIT OF HELP FROM MARVEL'S OWN

MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS

BE HERE, PILGRIMS, FOR OUR SENSATIONAL 50TH ISSUE!

ON SALE JULY 27th

MARVEL TEAM-UP

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

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MARVEL TEAM-UP

FEATURING

SPIDER-MAN AND DR. STRANGE

™ ™

DUEL IN THE DEATH CRYPT!

THE WEB-SLINGER AND THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS FACE

THE POWER OF THE WRAITH!

STAN LEE PRESENTS: SPIDEY™ AND Dr. STRANGE™ TOGETHER!

PEERLESS PROSE by BILL MANTLO / PULSE POUNDING PICTURES by SAL BUSCEMA & MIKE ESPOSITO / PATIENT PRODDING by A. GOODWIN, EDITOR

The MYSTERY OF THE WRAITH!

COME AHEAD, HEROES! FACE ME--IF YOU DARE!
FOR I'LL TURN YOUR OWN MINDS AGAINST YOU--
--LEAVING YOU SCREAMLESS, MINDLESS HULKS!!
AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO TO STOP HIM!
NOTHING!!
LETTERER / K. MANTLO
COLORIST / J. COHEN
C-67

PARDON THE SPLASH PAGE TEASE, PILGRIMS-- BUT THAT SCENE HAS YET TO HAPPEN.

AND FOR THE PRESENT, OUR STORY HAS SOMEWHAT MILDER BEGINNINGS...

...AS A STRAND OF WEBBING DANGLES BEFORE THE UNSEEING EYES OF A MAN IN A MYSTICALLY-INDUCED TRANCE.

A MAN KNOWN AS ...DR. STRANGE.

DOC... UH... DOC?

YOU AWAKE??

SPIDER-MAN!

THE MYSTIC GUARDS I LEFT OVER MY BODY WOULD NOT REACT TO HIM AS AN ENEMY!

GEE! MAYBE I'D BETTER COME BACK LATER!

LIKE WHEN HE'S ALIVE!

I AM VERY MUCH ALIVE, MY FRIEND!

WHAT SERVICE CAN I OFFER YOU?

NAH! I WON'T ASK!

I DON'T THINK I WANT TO KNOW.

SOME MOMENTS LATER...

YOU WANT ME TO DETERMINE WHETHER A DEATH INDEED OCCURRED ON A NIGHT TWO YEARS AGO??

YOU ASK MUCH OF ME, SPIDER-MAN!

I DON'T KNOW WHO ELSE COULD EVEN ATTEMPT IT, DOC! AND A LOT OF LIVES DEPEND ON IT!

LET ME EXPLAIN--

AND WHILE THE WALL-CRAWLER UNDERTAKES TO FILL THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS IN ON OUR LAST TWO ISSUES--

--WE MUST PROCEED ON AHEAD TO...

HERE'S WHERE WE PART COMPANY, IRON MAN!

A PITY, FAIR LADY!

WE WERE JUST STARTING TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER--

--OVER THE ROAR OF YOUR ENGINE.

I'LL BET YOU SAY THAT TO EVERY FEMALE POLICE CAPTAIN YOU RUN INTO, SHELLHEAD!

OR AT LEAST THE ONES THAT LET YOU!

I'M NOT TELLING, JEAN!

ALL RIGHT, AVENGER! PLAY HARD-TO-GET!

GOOD HUNTING, CAPTAIN! I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU --ON MY WAY BACK FROM STARK'S LAB!

YOU *DO* THAT, IRON MAN!

BUT YOU'LL ONLY BE *CONFIRMING* WHAT THIS LADY *DETECTIVE* ALREADY *SUSPECTS*--

--THAT THE *MURDERER* WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE *WRAITH* IS NONE OTHER THAN *PHILLIP DE WOLFF*--

--MY OWN DEAR *FATHER!*

"I DIDN'T *CATCH ON* RIGHT AWAY! AT LEAST NOT WHILE THE WRAITH WAS BEATING IRON MAN AND SPIDER-MAN ALL OVER THE ROOFTOPS OF *NEW YORK*--*

*LAST ISSUE -- ARCHIE.

"--AND HE THREW ME *OFF* WHEN HE SHOWED UP JUST *AFTER* THE BATTLE WITH A *NOTE* HE CLAIMED WAS FROM MY BROTHER *BRIAN.*

"A NOTE WHIICH SAID THAT *BRIAN* AND THE *WRAITH* WERE ONE AND THE *SAME!*

"I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN *THEN* THAT MY FATHER WAS *TOYING* WITH ME.

" BRIAN *DISAPPEARED* TWO YEARS AGO WHEN HIS *PATROL CAR* WAS AMBUSHED--

"-- AND EVERYONE ACCEPTED THAT HE WAS *DEAD!*

EVERYONE EXCEPT *FATHER*, THAT IS--

--AND FOR SOME REASON HE COULDN'T *BEAR* TO SEE HIS *DAUGHTER* SURVIVE TO TAKE HIS *PLACE* AS HEAD OF THE *DEPARTMENT!*

A PLACE HE FELT WOULD'VE GONE TO HIS *SON*--HAD HE *LIVED!*

...AND THAT'S THE *STORY*, DOC!

I DON'T BELIEVE FOR A *MINUTE* THAT JEAN'S BROTHER IS THIS *WRAITH* CHARACTER--

--BUT IT WOULD EASE *HER* TO KNOW FOR *SURE* WHETHER BRIAN *REALLY* DIED IN THAT AMBUSH!

I... SEE!

VERY WELL, MY FRIEND. YOU HAVE COME TO DR. STRANGE SEEKING *AID*--

--CONSIDER YOUR REQUEST *GRANTED!*

THEN JUST FOLLOW *ME*, DOC!

NEXT *STOP*--THE SOUTH STREET *SEAPORT* --TO SEE A *PLACE* ABOUT A *MURDER!*

THE THREADS WEAVE FASTER NOW, AS THE PLAYERS TAKE THEIR APPOINTED PLACES ON A STAGE THAT IS BEING SET FOR THE BATTLE YET TO COME.

AND ONE OF THOSE PLAYERS IS A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE KNOWN AS--

--THE WRAITH!!

YET WHY IS HE SILENTLY MOVING THROUGH THIS VAST UNDERGROUND CAVERN...

...LOOKING NEITHER RIGHT NOR LEFT AS HE PASSES BANKS OF MACHINERY-- BENEATH SUSPENDED MODEL AIRCRAFT?

WHY DOES HE SUDDENLY HALT AS A BEAM STABS DOWN FROM ABOVE, HOLDING HIM IN ITS CIRCLE OF LIGHT?

AND WHY DOES HE SEEM TO STARE UNSEEING AS A FIGURE EMERGES FROM THE SHADOWS NEARBY, AND SAYS...

GOOD! SO YOU'VE RETURNED--

--AT LAST!

OBSERVATION: THE AIR IS CHILL THIS NIGHT ON THE GROUNDS OF CALVARY CEMETARY...

...BUT IT'S MORE A CHILL OF THE SOUL THAN OF THE BODY...

...AND JEAN DE WOLFF SEARCHES FOR QUESTIONS SHE DREADS FINDING THE ANSWERS TO.

WHAT A SAP I'VE BEEN-- NOT GUESSING WHEN THAT BOMB ALMOST CAUGHT ME AN' THE HEROES--*

--THAT ITS PURPOSE WAS TO KEEP ME FROM CHECKING OUT THE FAMILY CRYPT!

BUT HE'S BEEN PLAYING ON MY BEING JUST A "MERE WOMAN" SINCE THIS STARTED.

*MTU# 48--ARCH.

US "GIRLS" ARE SUPPOSED TO BE SPOOKED BY THINGS LIKE GRAVEYARDS!

EXCEPT THAT I KNOW NOW THAT THE GHOST I'M AFTER IS HUMAN--

--AND GOES BY THE NAME OF THE WRAITH!

THIS IS THE *PLACE*, DOC--

--ACCORDING TO A LADY WHO'D *KNOW*!

YES. I SENSED CERTAIN... *EMANATIONS* ... AS WE DREW *NEAR*!

THERE IS A *MYSTERY* HERE!

YOU DON'T WASTE ANY *TIME*, DO YOU?

NOT IF IT MAY BE *HELPED*, SPIDER-MAN! *AH*--

--MY *AMULET* CONJURES FORTH *SPECTERS* OF THE PAST--

--AND COMMANDS THEM TO *RE-ENACT* THE EVENTS WHOSE *NATURE* WE SEEK TO LEARN!

"*THERE*! THAT MUST BE JEAN'S BROTHER-- *BRIAN*! HE'S JUST BEEN SHOT!"

"THESE IMAGES ARE BUT *REMEM-BRANCES* OF THINGS PAST, MY FRIEND!"

"OKAY--BUT WHO'S THAT *SHOOTING* THE GUY WHO *PLUGGED BRIAN*?"

"I CANNOT *ANSWER* YOUR QUESTION, SPIDER-MAN-- FOR THE IMAGES ARE BUT *PHANTOMS* WHOSE IMPRESSION BECAME *RECORDED* ON THIS PLACE!

"*IDENTIFICATION* MUST COME FROM *ELSEWHERE*!"

NOW THE TABLEAU DRAWS TO A *CLOSE*-- AS BRIAN IS CARRIED *OFF* BY *ANOTHER*!

YET WHETHER THE BOY *LIVED*-- OR *DIED*-- THE GENII LOCATED IN THIS SPOT CANNOT--

--OR *WILL NOT* SAY!

DOESN'T *MATTER*, DOC! I'VE *GOT* MY ANSWER!

OUR "MYSTERY" PHANTOM'S *NAME* IS PHILLIP DE WOLFF--

--AND I HAVE A *HUNCH* THAT WHEN WE FIND *HIM*--

--WE'LL FIND THE *WRAITH*!

WANT TO COME ALONG FOR THE *RIDE*, DOC?

YES, MY FRIEND! I *DO*!

THAT LEAVES JUST ONE OF OUR CO-STARS TO ARRIVE AT A CONCLUSION...

...AND THAT'S BECAUSE TONY STARK LIKES TO DO THINGS SCIENTIFICALLY.

THIS NOTE FROM THE WRAITH* IS THE ONLY CONCRETE CLUE WE HAVE TO GO ON--

*MTU#48--ARCHIE.

--AND WHILE THE POLICE LAB CHECKED IT OVER--

--THEY'VE JUST NOT IN THE SAME LEAGUE AS I AM WHEN IT COMES TO TECHNICAL ANALYSIS!

THERE!

THE MICRO-PARTICLE ANALYZER INDICATES THAT THE SMUDGED FINGERPRINT SHOWING ON THE FLO-RESCENT SCREEN WAS ON THE PAPER BEFORE THE NOTE WAS COMPOSED.

AND LOCKING ONTO IT--I CAN HAVE THE COMPUTER TIE-IN TO SHIELD'S MAIN DATA BANK--

--AND RUN THROUGH THOUSANDS OF PRINTS IN THEIR FILES IN A MATTER OF SECONDS!

FILE NO. 52
NAME

POLICE DE

GOT IT!

BUT--GOOD LORD! IT MATCHES WITH THE ON-FILE PRINTS OF EX-COMMISSIONER OF POLICE PHILLIP DE WOLFF!

THE WRAITH IS JEAN'S FATHER!

CONCLUSIONS REACHED. DATA GATHERED. EVIDENCE IN. NOW ALL THAT REMAINS IS THE ANSWER.

THERE IS NO LONGER ANY NEED FOR THE MASK.

OUR JOB IS DONE FOR THIS NIGHT!

YOU'RE DONE PERIOD, BUSTER!!

WHO--?

JUST THAT LI'L OL' POLICE CAPTAIN--

--ME!

TAKE OFF THAT RIDICULOUS COSTUME, FATHER! IT DON'T SUIT YOU!

I'M SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, DAUGHTER--

-- BUT, AS YOU CAN SEE-- I'M NOT WEARING A COSTUME!

YOU! BUT I THOUGHT--

EXACTLY WHAT I WISHED YOU TO THINK! I'VE MANIPULATED YOU, DAUGHTER, FROM THE VERY START--

-- AS NO TRUE DETECTIVE WOULD ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE MANIPULATED!

BUT AS A WOMAN MIGHT!

OKAY. SO I BLEW A HUNCH!

BUT I'VE STILL GOT YOU AND YOUR STOOGE, FATHER-- AND I'M TAKING YOU BOTH IN FOR MURDER!

NOW JUST TELL SPOOKY HERE TO LIFT THAT COWL--

DO AS SHE ASKS, MY BOY--

--AND SHOW HER THE EXTENT OF HER FOLLY IN BELIEVING HERSELF A POLICEWOMAN!

OH, MY GOD, NO!!

IT CAN'T BE --NOT YOU!!

NOOOOO

THAT'S JEAN'S VOICE!

DOWN THIS WAY!!

HAVE A CARE, SPIDER-MAN!

THE SAME EMANATIONS I FELT EARLIER ARE PRESENT HERE!

BUT MUCH MORE INTENSE!

FAINTED! JUST LIKE A WOMAN!
EH? THE ALARM!
SOMEONE'S ENTERED THE CRYPT!
SPIDER-MAN, AGAIN! AND THAT MASKED INTERLOPER'S BROUGHT ANOTHER WITH HIM!
BUT THE WRAITH STOPPED HIM WHEN HE HAD IRON MAN AT HIS SIDE!
"-- WHAT NEED HAVE WE TO FEAR HIM NOW?
THE SENSE OF DREAD GROWS STRONGER!
YEAH, DOC! I FEEL IT, TOO!
AS IF THE WALLS WERE ABOUT TO CLOSE IN ON US!
WELL, NOT QUITE!
BY THE VISHANTI!
IS THAT WHO'S DOIN' THIS?
TELL HIM TO GET OFF!!
MUST... CAST A SPELL... BEFORE THE LIFE IS CRUSHED...
... FROM US!
BY THE OMNIPOTENT OSHTUR-- NOTHING HAPPENS!!
BUT THEN THE STONE HANDS WITHDRAW... AS QUICKLY AS THEY'D COME.
MUST BE... WRAITH! PLAYING WITH OUR MINDS!!
FOR THE SPACE OF A SECOND THE DARK FIGURE ON THE STAIR-WAY NODS, AS IF IN AGREEMENT...
...AND THEN HE BREAKS HIS SILENCE...
YOU ARE WANTED BELOW, MY FRIENDS!
...MOST DRAMATICALLY.
ARR! MY HEAD!
IT FEELS AS IF MY BRAIN WERE ON FIRE!

IT IS ALMOST A HALF HOUR LATER, THAT JEAN DE WOLFF AWAKES TO FIND...

SPIDER-MAN!

IF HE'S--

DEAD, CHILD?

NOT AT ALL! BOTH HE AND HIS COMPANION-- WHO I BELIEVE IS KNOWN AS DR. STRANGE-- ARE MERELY IN A STATE OF MIND-SHOCK--

--AND THEY'RE RECOVERING NICELY UNDER THE EFFECT OF THE PARALYSIS-BEAM!

YOU NEED HAVE NO FEARS FOR THEM!

BUT-- BUT WHAT ABOUT--

WHAT ABOUT THE WRAITH, DAUGHTER?

WHY SO HESITANT ABOUT SPEAKING OUR THOUGHTS, MY DEAR?

AFTER ALL-- IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THAT ONE LOVING SIBLING GETS TO GREET ANOTHER--

--WHO'S BEEN THOUGHT DEAD FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS!

SAY HELLO TO YOUR DEAR BROTHER, CHILD!

WELCOME DEAR, DEPARTED BRIAN BACK TO LIFE!

NO! I WON'T BELIEVE IT!

I WON'T!

SO BRIAN IS ALIVE! GREAT!

FOR ALL THE GOOD IT LOOKS LIKE IT'LL DO US!

JEAN'S CRACKING AND I CAN'T MOVE A MUSCLE TO HELP HER!

WHERE THE HECK IS IRON MAN?

ANSWER...

ALL RIGHT, TONY-- YOU'VE FOUND OUT *WHO* THE WRAITH IS--

--THE QUESTION *NOW* IS-- *HOW* DO WE *STOP* THOSE *MIND-POWERS* OF HIS?

AND THE *ANSWER* JUST MIGHT BE THIS TRANSISTORIZED *ALPHA-JAMMER* I PIECED TOGETHER FROM A *SHIELD ESPER UNIT* ORIGINAL!

AND IF IT'S *NOT*, WELL--

--WE'LL FIND OUT THE EXTENT OF THE *PAIN* THAT THE OL' *GREY MATTER* CAN STAND!

PRESUMING, OF COURSE, I CAN *FIND* HIM!

BUT-- FINDING A *PART TIME GHOST--!* WHERE DO YOU *LOOK?!*

...ON THE *WAY!*

WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH HIM? HE DOESN'T *MOVE* --DOESN'T *SPEAK!* HE DOESN'T EVEN *BLINK!*

WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE* TO HIM??

I? I'VE DONE *NOTHING*, DAUGHTER--

"--EXCEPT MAINTAIN A *LIFE* THAT WOULD HAVE *PERISHED* WITHOUT MY *CARE!*"

EH? WHAT'S THAT--?

CAR 791 UNDER ATTACK ... SOUTH AND CHAMBERS... ALL UNITS PROCEED...

GOOD LORD! *THAT'S BRIAN'S CAR!!*

"I DROVE LIKE A *FIEND*, JEAN --AND ARRIVED JUST IN TIME TO SEE MY SON *SHOT--*

"--AND TO *AVENGE* HIM!"

MURDEROUS *FILTH!*

PTOW!

BLAM!

BY MY *SOUL!* THOUGH THE BEAM SEEMS TO AFFECT ONLY MY *PHYSICAL* SELF--

--I SENSE THE SAME LACK OF *COMMAND* OVER MY *MYSTICAL POWERS* AS I'VE EXPERIENCED BEFORE!*

I MUST... *CONCENTRATE-- AND* HOPE THAT SPIDER-MAN CAN FIND A *WAY!*

*DEFENDERS #36-37--ARCH.

DUNNO WHY STRANGE HASN'T *DONE* ANYTHING--

--BUT IF I CAN MOVE MY *FINGERS* JUST A *LITTLE...*

"I BORE BRIAN *AWAY* FROM THE SCENE, AND GOT HIM *HOME!* HE WAS *ALIVE* --BUT THE LINKAGE BE-TWEEN HIS *NERVOUS SYSTEM* AND HIS *MIND* HAD BEEN *SEVERED--*

--PERMANENTLY!"

VORSTER? DE WOLFF HERE... CAN YOU COME *OVER?*

IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND *DEATH!*

"I COULD NOT *BEAR* TO SEE YOUR BROTHER SURVIVE AS A *VEGETABLE*, JEAN--

"--SO I SOUGHT **AID** FROM TWO MEN I THOUGHT I COULD **TRUST**! MEN WITH **MONEY**!

"**KARL BONN**, THE BANKER ... AND **MAX VORSTER**, A WEALTHY LANDLORD!"

THE BOY IS **DYING**, PHILLIP!

HE MUST BE **OPERATED** ON... AT **ONCE**!!

FEELS LIKE... AN **ELEPHANT** ...IS SITTING ON MY **HAND**...

... BUT ONLY A LITTLE ...**MORE**!

NO! HE ISN'T **DYING**!

AND NO ONE MUST **KNOW** THAT HE'S **HERE**! THAT HE'S **ALIVE**!!

BUT--BUT **WHY**, PHILLIP?

SLAM!

DID IT!

THWIP!

BECAUSE MY SON MUST BE **RESTORED** TO LIFE--AND **MORE** THAN LIFE--IN **SECRET**!

HE MUST **RETURN** TO SEARCH OUT THOSE WHO WOULD **PREY** ON THE INNOCENT --THE **LAW-ABIDING** --AND **DESTROY** THEM!

HE WILL BE A **WRAITH**--DEALING **JUSTICE** FROM BEYOND THE **GRAVE**!

"BONN AND VORSTER AGREED TO **HELP** ME--OR SO I **THOUGHT**!

"ONLY LATER DID I LEARN THE **PRICE** THEY WOULD ASK OF ME!"

OH, **GREAT**! I **KILL** MYSELF TO REACH MY **WEB-SHOOTER**--

--AND THEN HIT THE **WRONG BUTTON**!

WHIR-R-R

THWAP!

SPIDER-MAN HAS **FAILED**!

NOW I MUST SUCCEED--

--OR LOSE **ALL**!

FOR IF WE ARE **DISCOVERED** WITH MY POWERS REFUSING TO **RESPOND**--DE WOLFF WILL HAVE HIS SON **FINISH US**!

SO--WHILE MY ABILITY TO CAST **SPELLS** HAS FAILED ME--

--THE POWER TO COMPEL MY ENCHANTED **CLOAK OF LEVITATION** HAS NOT!

AND MAY IT BE **ENOUGH** TO KEEP THE BEAM WHICH **BINDS** ME FROM HOLDING ME **FURTHER**!

PRAISE THE VISHANTI! IT WAS ENOUGH!

AND NOW FOR SPIDER-MAN!

BE FREE, MY FRIEND!

MUCHAS GRACIAS, MYSTIC MASTER!

JUST GIVE ME A SEC TO LIMBER UP THE OLD JOINTS--

AND THEN WE'LL GIVE DADDY'S STORY ITS FIRST STATION-BREAK!

"WITH THEIR MONEY," SAYS DEWOLFF, "A TUNNEL-CAVERN NETWORK WAS BUILT LINKING OUR HOUSE TO THE GRAVEYARD WHERE BRIAN'S "CRYPT" LAY--HONORING HIS MEMORY--

"--WHILE HIS BODY--ALIVE BUT UNGUIDED--UNDERWENT PRE-OPERATIVE PREPARATION!

"AND THEN, WHEN ALL WAS READY FOR MY BOY'S REBIRTH--"

STOP, DE WOLFF! WE KNOW NOW THAT THE DEVICE WILL WORK--THAT IT WILL RETURN YOUR SON TO A LIFE THAT IS GREATER THAN LIFE--

BUT HIS NEW... TALENTS WILL NOT BE WASTED AS YOU PLAN! HE WILL SERVE US!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, KARL?

HAVE YOU GONE MAD? THIS IS MY SON!

"IT WAS THEN THAT I FOUND OUT THAT MY BENEFACTORS WERE CRIMINALS!

"THE FIRST REASON THEY AIDED ME WAS TO HAVE AN HONORED COMMISSIONER OF POLICE INDEBTED TO THEM SHOULD THEY BE CAUGHT! NOW THEY WANTED MY SON--!"

DON'T BE A FOOL, DE WOLFF!

STAY BACK!!

"I ... WENT MAD, THEN--

"--AND THEY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THAT TO DRIVE ME BACK--

"--INTO THE MACHINERY THAT WAS TO REVITALIZE MY SON!

"IT BLAZED TO LIFE AS I STRUCK IT--

"--AND FATHER AND SON ALIKE WERE BATHED IN ITS FIERY GLOW!"

AND SOMETHING ... HAPPENED!

AS THE RAY PIERCED INTO THE VERY FABRIC OF MY MIND--

--I FELT BRIAN'S MIND REACHING OUT FOR ME--WAILING LIKE A LOST SOUL...

"... AND BINDING ITSELF TO ME AS A PARASITE BINDS ITSELF TO ITS LIFE-SUSTAINING HOST!

"VORSTER AND BONN HAD FLED... THINKING US TO HAVE DIED--

"--BUT WE HAD FOUND LIFE, BRIAN AND I, BENEATH THE REVITALIZER!

"LIFE--AND SOMETHING MORE!!"

I--I REACHED FOR MY HEAD...

... AND BRIAN RESPONDED IN EXACTLY THE SAME FASHION!!

"WE WERE MENTALLY LINKED--AND MY BRAIN BECAME THE GUIDING FORCE--

"--WHILE BRIAN, THOUGH MINDLESS, WAS GIVEN THE POWER TO TURN MY WISHES INTO REALITIES!"

I HAVE MERELY TO SUGGEST MENTALLY TO BRIAN THAT A TASK BE CARRIED OUT...

... AND IT IS DONE!

PHENOMENALLY!!

AND THUS WAS YOUR DEAR MINDLESS BROTHER FORGED INTO A BEING CAPABLE OF ACCOMPLISHING GREAT GOOD, JEAN--

--STARTING WITH OUR REVENGE AGAINST VORSTER AND BONN! ONE SLAIN IN HIS HOME, THE OTHER AT HIS PLACE OF BUSINESS!*

IN FLAMES WAS BRIAN--THROUGH ME--REBORN INTO THE BEING KNOWN AS THE WRAITH--

--THAT INJUSTICE--SEEING HIM--MIGHT FLEE BACK INTO THE DARK PLACES IN HELPLESS, SCURRYING FEAR!

*MTU#48 --ARCHIE.

A NICE FAIRY-TALE, POP--

--BUT IT JUST DON'T WASH!

WHO??

SPIDER-MAN!!

A CIGAR FOR THE LADY POLICE CAPTAIN!

BUT SHE CAN ONLY COLLECT AFTER SHE GETS HER OLD MAN TO EXPLAIN HOW BLOWING UP A FUEL TANK--

--WIPING OUT A BANK FULL OF INNOCENT PEOPLE, AND ATTACKING HIS OWN DAUGHTER WORKS OUT TO BATTLING INJUSTICE??*

MISTER-- YOU SOUND LIKE A CERTIFIED, A-1 CRACKER TO ME!!

*OUR LAST TWO ISSUES--ARCH.

YOU MASKED VIGILANTE! HOW DARE YOU QUESTION MY MOTIVES!

YOU ARE ONE WITH THE EVIL I HAVE SWORN TO WIPE FROM THE EARTH...

...AND MY SON WILL DEAL WITH YOU!!

FATHER! NO!!

YES, DAUGHTER! YES!

MY ENEMIES ARE YOUR BROTHER'S FOES AS WELL... AND HE WILL FACE THEM--

--AS ONLY THE WRAITH CAN!!

WE ARE PREPARED FOR THE BOY'S ATTACK, PHILLIP DE WOLFF--

--AND IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN MERE POWER OF MIND TO BREACH THE DEFENSES OF DR. STRANGE.

THAT'S ALL PEACHY KEEN, DOC, EXCEPT THAT WHILE WE'RE IN HERE--

--JEAN'S OUT THERE!!

THE LADY'S WELL AWARE OF THAT, WALL-CRAWLER.

THIS MADNESS IS GOING TO STOP, FATHER!

AND IT'S GOING TO STOP NOW!

AGAIN YOU TRY TO TAKE SOMETHING FROM ME, DAUGHTER?

THE WAY YOU KILLED YOUR MOTHER AS SHE STRUGGLED TO GIVE BIRTH TO YOU--

--THE WAY YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF YOUR BROTHER'S "DEATH" TO STEAL THE POSITION THAT WAS TO HAVE BEEN HIS!

AND NOW YOU CHOOSE TO SIDE WITH MY ENEMIES!

YOU--YOU'RE MAD, FATHER! INSANE!

MAD? YOU WOULD CALL THE FLESH OF YOUR OWN FLESH MAD?

YOU WOULD TURN AGAINST YOUR OWN BLOOD??

YOU ARE AN ABOMINATION, CHILD--

--AND AS I BROUGHT YOU INTO THIS LIFE--

--SO WILL I CAST YOU OUT!!

WHAT--WHAT ARE YOU MAKING BRIAN DO?

NO! I--I CAN FEEL IT HAPPENING--

--IN MY MIND!!

IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN, FATHER--

--MAKE IT STOP!

BUT IT DOESN'T STOP!

AND IF IT KEEPS ON, THERE MAY NOT BE ENOUGH OF A MIND LEFT TO CARE!

LOOKS LIKE I WAS WRONG ABOUT THE I.D. OF THE MAN IN THE SPOOK-SUIT--

--BUT AT LEAST I'M IN TIME TO MAKE UP FOR IT!

BUT ISN'T THAT USUALLY WHEN THE BUGLES ANNOUNCE THE ARRIVAL OF THE CAVALRY?

THE FAMILY CRYPT TURNED OUT TO BE A GOOD PLACE TO LOOK FOR A GHOST! JEAN'S CAR AND THE OPEN DOOR ICED IT!

IRON MAN! YOU'RE TOO LATE, AVENGER--

STRAH

--NOT EVEN YOU CAN STOP US NOW!

FOR I HAVE MERELY TO GENERATE THE THOUGHT--

--AND YOU WILL FEEL THE MIND-FORCE OF THE WRAITH--

--UNLEASHED!

ONLY IF IT *HITS ME,* DE WOLFF--

--AND LESSON *ONE* IN THIS BUSINESS IS HOW TO *AVOID* JUST THAT!

WHILE LESSON NUMBER *TWO* GOES:

"NEVER TURN YOU'RE *BACK* ON A PAIR OF HEROES UNLESS YOU'RE SURE THEY'VE STOPPED *BREATHING!*"

STRIKE AT THE *SON,* SPIDER-MAN--

--NOW!

THWIP!

THWIP!

CONSIDER HIM *STRUCK,* DOC!

AND IN THAT MOMENT, PHILLIP DE WOLFF MAKES ONE LAST MISTAKE.

BRIAN!!

THWAP!

HE FORGETS THAT EYES TO A SON WHO IS GUIDED PURELY BY AN OUTSIDE MIND...

...ARE LITTLE MORE THAN USELESS.

I PRAY THE WOMAN *LIVES,* MADMAN--

--FOR *YOUR* SAKE!

BUT WHETHER IT BE THE SHOCK OF SEEING HIS BELOVED SON ATTACKED...

...OR THE RAPIDITY WITH WHICH EVENTS AROUND HIM NOW TAKE PLACE...

THAT TAKES CARE OF *SPOOKY!*

WHICH ONLY LEAVES *POP!*

...MATTERS BUT LITTLE...

...FOR PHILLIP DE WOLFF FORGETS THAT HIS ENORMOUSLY POWERFUL SON CANNOT EMPLOY HIS MIND-FORCE WITHOUT GUIDANCE.

STOP, YOU WEBBED *MENACE!* LEAVE MY SON *ALONE!*

BUT THERE ARE OTHERS WHO DO NOT FORGET.

ALL RIGHT, ALPHA-JAMMER--

--PROVE TO PAPA THAT HE REALLY *IS* THE INVENTIVE GENIUS HE *THINKS* HE IS!

NOT THAT ANY OF US WILL BE *LEFT* TO CRITICIZE IF YOU *FAIL!*

WHAT??

IT TAKES JUST A **SECOND** TO SEAT THE MICRO-CIRCUITED HELMET ON THE EX-POLICE COMMISSIONER'S **HEAD**...

...AND ANOTHER SECOND **MORE** BEFORE THE BRAINWAVES FROM THE **ELDER** DE WOLFF CEASE COMMUNICATING THEMSELVES TO HIS **SON**...

...AND THEN THE GAME IS **DONE.**

BRIAN! IS HE--?

HE IS **ALIVE,** MS. DE WOLFF-- THOUGH RETURNED TO HIS STATE OF ***CATATONIC HELPLESSNESS***--

--AND I PLEDGE YOU THAT I SHALL NOT *REST* UNTIL THAT STATE BE ***CHANGED!***

YOU'RE THE **DOC,** DOC--

--BUT I DON'T NEED A PH.D.--

--TO SEE THAT WHAT YOU'RE GETTING YOURSELF *IN* FOR IS GONNA TAKE A ***MIRACLE***--

--AND, MAN-- ***NONE*** OF US ARE IN ***THAT*** LEAGUE!

NEXT: MIRACLES DO HAPPEN, THOUGH, PILGRIMS--IN THE TALE WE COULD ONLY CALL ...

THE TRIAL OF THE WRAITH!

MARVEL TEAM-UP

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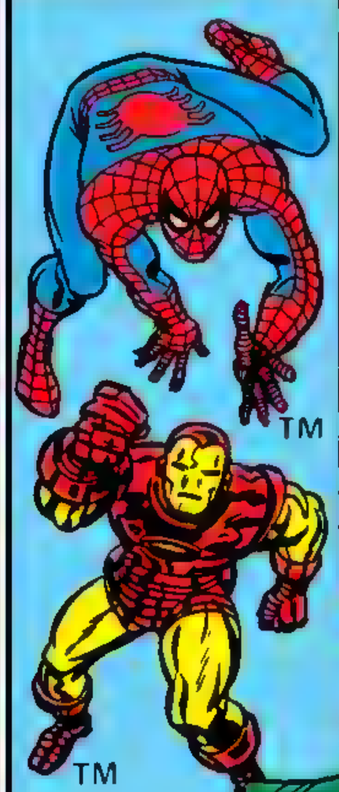
FEATURING

SPIDER-MAN™

AND

IRON MAN®



CHAOS IN THE COURT!

THE SHATTERING CONCLUSION OF *THE SAGA OF THE WRAITH!*

Stan Lee PRESENTS: SPIDEY & IRON MAN TOGETHER! TM

THE TRIAL OF THE WRAITH!

BAILIFF! CALL THIS COURT TO ORDER!

LET THE TRIAL BEGIN!

THE ALPHA-JAMMER'S STILL FUNCTIONING CORRECTLY, DOCTOR--

--BLOCKING PHILLIP DE WOLFF FROM COMMUNICATING MENTALLY WITH HIS SON, BRIAN!*

EXCELLENT! SINCE BRIAN'S SEVERED NERVOUS SYSTEM CAN RECEIVE NO COMMANDS--HIS GREATLY ENHANCED, BUT UNFOCUSED, MIND POWER IS RENDERED INOPERATIVE!

WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE WRAITH!

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, DOCTOR. THIS COURT WON'T LOOK FAVORABLY ON ANY KIND OF DISRUPTION!

THERE--THERE WON'T BE ANY DISRUPTIONS, MR. BALE.

CAN WE... GET ON WITH IT?

*AS RECOUNTED LAST ISH.--ARCHIE.

BILL MANTLO STORY * SAL BUSCEMA & MIKE ESPOSITO ART * I. WATANABE, LETTERS JANICE COHEN, COLORS * ARCHIE GOODWIN EDITOR

BUT BOTH THE FRUSTRATIONS OF THE **BAILIFF** AND THE PLEA OF POLICE CAPTAIN **JEAN DEWOLFF** HAVE TO WAIT ON THE **ARRIVAL** OF CERTAIN GENTLEMEN OF THE **PRESS.**

HEY, JJJ! ISN'T THAT **EMERSON BALE** -- THE FAMOUS **DEFENSE ATTORNEY** --WITH IRON MAN?

WHAT'S **WRONG** WITH YOU, PARKER? DON'T YOU READ THE **BUGLE?**

OF **COURSE** IT IS! AND WE WOULDN'T BE **LATE** IF YOU HADN'T **STOPPED** TO BUY **FILM!!**

* ALSO LAWYER FOR THE **CHAMPIONS**--YE EDITOR.

IF JONAH ONLY **KNEW!**

AS **SPIDEY,** I WAS AS MUCH A PART OF GETTING JEAN'S **DAD** AND **BROTHER** A FAIR TRIAL AS WERE **DOC** AND **IRON MAN!**

BUT EVEN MY **CO-HEROES** DON'T KNOW THE WALL-CRAWLER'S **HERE**--AS **PETER PARKER!**

PARKER! WHERE **IS** THAT SHIRKER?

SORRY, LADY!

OF ALL THE NERVE--

AND JUST **WHO** DO YOU THINK **YOU** ARE??

J. JONAH JAMESON, **THAT'S** WHO! PUBLISHER OF THE **DAILY BUGLE!**

THE PRESS OF FREE-DOM!

SO **YOU'RE** THE MAN THAT PRINTS THAT **SCANDAL SHEET!**

WELL, LET ME TELL **YOU** A THING OR TWO--

YOU KEEP HER **BUSY, JJJ**-- WHILE I GET SOME **PICS!**

THE PRESS HAS ALREADY BEGUN **MISREPRESENTING** THIS CASE, DOCTOR TURNING IT INTO A **SIDE-SHOW!**

IT IS NEVER ANY **DIFFERENT,** AVENGER.

THOSE IN THE **LIME-LIGHT,** AS **WE** ARE--AS **JEAN** IS NOW--ARE **EVER** SUBJECT TO THE CURIOUS **PASSIONS** OF OTHERS!

IT'S NONE OF **MY** BUSINESS, DOC-- BUT YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE **YOU'VE** NEVER EXPERIENCED **THOSE** FEELINGS!

AND **THAT** I FIND HARD TO **SWALLOW!**

NOW **SMILE,** FELLAS-- AND SAY **CHEESE!**

TRUTH! FROM A **PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER!!**

AND--**YES!** THOUGH I BE A TRUE **MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS--**

--IT WAS THOSE **SAME** PASSIONS THAT DROVE THE MAN I **WAS--**

--AND THAT PERHAPS **STILL** DRIVE THE MAN I HAVE **BECOME!**

WHY ALL THE SPECIAL **HARDWARE,** FRIENDS?

JEAN DeWOLFF **REQUESTED** IT OF FURY, KID!

GUESS SHE THINKS SHE'LL NEED A **LINK-UP** WITH SOME OF THE **BEST** LEGAL-EAGLES IN THE COUNTRY.

YOU CAN TELL BALE IT'S **READY,** CARTER!

RIGHT.

MURDOCK? AM I COMING IN **CLEAR?**

WELL-- **AUDIBLY, YES** COUNSELLOR.

OH, I-- **OF COURSE!** FORGIVE ME, PLEASE.

MATT MURDOCK! THE **BLIND** LAW-PARTNER OF THE EX-D.A.!*

*AND ALSO **DAREDEVIL** FOR THE UNINITIATED --ARCH.

WHILE AT THE **DEFENSE TABLE...**

I--I KNOW YOU CAN'T **HEAR ME,** BRIAN--THAT SINCE THE NIGHT OF YOUR **AMBUSH** YOU'VE BEEN A TOTAL **CATATONIC--**

--BUT **DR. STRANGE** HAS PROMISED TO **HELP YOU,** BRIAN! TO FIND A **CURE!**

AND I PRAY THE **LORD** HE MAY!

AMEN, JEAN, **AMEN!**

SO **THERE** YOU ARE, MR. HOTSHOT PHOTOG-RAPHER! AND NOT A **PICTURE,** I'LL BET!

THIS IS THE **BIG MOMENT,** PARKER! A FAMILY **TORN** BY HATRED AND **GRIEF!**

YEAH? WELL, YOU WANNA **KNOW** SOMETHING, JJJ?

I'VE HAD YOUR "BIG MOMENT" UP TO **HERE!** I MAY **WORK** FOR YOU--

BUT PICKING THE **FLESH** OFF ANOTHER PERSON'S **MISERY** IS WAY OUT OF MY **LINE!**

YOU WANT PICTURES OF THAT--THEN YOU **TAKE THEM YOURSELF!!**

PARKER?

I PAY YOU A **SALARY,** PARKER! **COME BACK HERE!!**

BLAST IT, I--

I CAN'T **WORK** ONE OF THESE THINGS.

THEN YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO **LEARN!**

*AND A SHORT WHILE **LATER...***

IT WOULD **PLEASE** THIS COURT TO HAVE SOME SEMBLENCE OF **ORDER--**

--THEN **WE** WOULD BE **MORE** THAN PLEASED TO **PROCEED!**

I APOLOGIZE FOR THE **DELAY,** YOUR HONORS--

--BUT I'M SURE YOU WILL GRANT THAT THIS **IS** A SOMEWHAT UN-ORTHODOX CASE--

--AND THAT IT CALLS FOR **DECIDEDLY** UNORTHO-DOX **PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES!**

SUCH AS THE **BRAINWAVE JAM-MING** HEADPIECE ON THE ELDER DEWOLFF! **NECESSARY--**

--FOR WERE HIS MIND **FREE**--HE WOULD ONCE AGAIN ATTEMPT TO DOMINATE THE LATENT **FORCES** IN THE BRAIN OF HIS **SON!**

TALK, FOOL! FOR EVEN AS YOU **DO,** I AM BENDING MY WILL TO **OTHER** TARGETS--

--SUCH AS THE UNSUSPECTING **SHIELD TECHNICIAN** ASSIGNED TO WATCH OVER THE **HELMET**--

--WHICH, WHILE IT EFFECTIVELY JAMS THE **ALPHA FREQUENCIES** OF MY MIND--

--IS SOMEWHAT **LESS** OF A SUCCESS IN THE **DELTA RANGE!**

I FEEL... **STRANGE!** WHAT'S--

HAPPENING, MY GOOD MAN? IT'S QUITE **SIMPLE,** REALLY!

YOUR MIND IS BEING **INVADED**--

--BY **MINE!!**

AND SINCE THERE IS NO **ROOM** INSIDE YOUR **SKULLCASE** FOR **TWO** PSYCHES--

--I'M AFRAID **YOURS**--

WILL HAVE TO GO!

AND **NOW,** MY UNWILLING **HOST-BODY** --**DISCONNECT THE ALPHA JAMMER!**

IT IS **DONE,** UNNOTICED BY **ALL** IN THE COURT...

...FOR THE EVENTS BEFORE THE **BENCH** HOLD ALL EYES **RIVETED.**

WHICH, FOR **ONE** PERSON IN PARTICULAR, IS A **BLESSING.**

THE GUARD'S SO **ABSORBED** IN THE **PERRY MASON** PART OF THIS CASE--

--THAT I PROBABLY COULD'VE BROUGHT AN **ELEPHANT** THROUGH HERE WITHOUT HIM **SEEING IT!**

IT IS **DONE!**

NOW ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO RE-ESTABLISH THE **MIND-LINK** BETWEEN **BRIAN** AND I--

--AND THE **WRAITH WILL AVENGE THE WRONGS DONE HIS FATHER!!**

"SUCH IS THE WAY OF **JUSTICE!**"

DOCTOR STRANGE?

YES, MS. DEWOLFF?

I KNOW IT'S **IMPOSSIBLE** --BUT I COULD **SWEAR** THAT I JUST SAW BRIAN **MOVE!**

YOU'RE **RIGHT,** JEAN! IT **IS** IMPOSSIBLE--BECAUSE THE ONLY MIND **CAPABLE** OF REACHING BRIAN IS YOUR **FATHER'S,** AND--

GOOD LORD!

SOMEONE'S PULLED THE PLUG!!

THEN DEWOLFF'S MIND IS **FREE!** SEE TO **BRIAN,** IRON MAN--

--**QUICKLY!!**

TOO LATE! HE'S GETTING **UP!**

HE'S GOING TO--

FOR WANT OF A BETTER WORD, LET'S JUST CALL IT... **MINDSTRIKE!!**

AND ALL **PRESENT** IN THE COURTROOM **FEEL IT** TEARING, **RENDING** AWAY AT THE FABRIC OF THEIR **MINDS!**

L-LORD! WHAT **IS** IT? **MAKE IT STOP!**

PAIN! TEARING AT ME!

GENTLY, BRIAN! **GENTLY!** WE DON'T TO **BURN THEM OUT.**

WE MERELY WISH TO TEACH THEM A LITTLE **LESSON** ABOUT THE NATURE OF **POWER!**

BUT AS THE ASSEMBLED CROWD **WRITHES** IN SEARING **AGONY...**

...THE WRAITH'S **BOOT** MAKES CONTACT WITH THE **SAME** LIVE WIRE THAT HAS BEEN **RESPONSIBLE** FOR THE LOOSING OF HIS FATHER'S **MIND...**

ZZZZTTT

...AND THE RESULTS **THIS** TIME ARE AS **SUDDEN...**

AARGHH! E-E-E-LE-LE-LECTRI-CITY R-R-RIP-PING M-ME A-P-PART!

S-S-SOME-THING H-HAPPEN-NING TO M-**ME!**

...AS THEY ARE **UNEXPECTED!**

SKRAK!

BY ALL THAT'S HOLY! BRIAN'S MIND IS **FLOOD-ING** INTO MINE!

NO **LONGER** MUST I MERELY ACT **THROUGH** MY SON--

--FOR NOW WE **SHARE** THE **POWER!** WE ARE **EQUALS!**

WE ARE **ONE,** BOTH IN OUR **THIRST** FOR VENGEANCE--

--AND IN THE ABILITY TO **ACHIEVE** IT!!

UNDOUBTEDLY THERE ARE NO CONGRATULATORY **CHEERS** FORTHCOMING FROM THE AGONIZED ONLOOKERS.

BUT WHAT OF HE WHOSE **PRESENCE** WAS NOT **SUSPECTED...**

THUS **EXEMPTING** HIM FROM THE LASH OF THE **MIND-STRIKE?**

HIYA, WRAITH! GUESS **WHO?**

I'LL GIVE YOU A **HINT,** IF YOU'RE **NICE!**

WHAT'S RED, BLUE, AND **WEBBED,** CLIMBS UP **WALLS--**

GIVE UP?

OKAY, SPOIL-SPORT! IT'S THAT L'IL OL **WEB-SLINGER ...ME!!**

--AND PACKS ONE HECKUVA **WALLOP?**

YEEOWW!

JUST MY **LUCK** TO PICK A **SORE LOSER!**

ALL HE HAS TO DO IS **THINK** ABOUT IT--

--AND I GET TOSSED THROUGH THE **AIR** LIKE A RUNAWAY **FRISBEE!**

AND IF I DON'T WANT TO LAND ON MY EVER-LOVIN' **HEAD--**

I THINK IT'S TIME I EXECUTED SOME **FANCY FLIPPING--**

--AND LAND UP ON MY **FEET!**

I'D SAY LIKE A **CAT**--EXCEPT I'M SURE THE NEWEST **LADY AVENGER** HAS PROBABLY GOT A **COPYRIGHT** ON THAT LINE BY NOW!*

WHUMP!

'SCUSE ME, YOUR HONORS!

*HELLCAT, OF COURSE --ARCH.

WALL-CRAWLER? WHAT IN BLAZES ARE **YOU** DOIN' THERE?

WHAT'S GOIN' ON??!

COLONEL FURY*! I DIDN'T KNOW THAT **YOU** WERE MONITORING THIS HEARING ON THAT SPECIAL HOOK-UP, TOO!

--BUT SINCE YOU **ARE,** YOU MIGHT AS WELL SIT BACK AND **WATCH THE SHOW!**

*THEY MET IN **MTU** #13, BIBLIOPHILES--ARCH AGAIN.

STARTING WITH THE **AMAZING MUZZLING** OF THE SUPER-VILLAIN OF THE **MONTH** IN THE **CENTER RING!**

WHICH, BY THE WAY, SHOULD **FREE** THE ONE AND ONLY **GOLDEN AVENGER!**

MY EYES!!

WHAP

I...CAN **THINK AGAIN!**

MUCH **THANKS,** WEBHEAD-- AND WHILE I DON'T **SHARE** YOUR ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS **CIRCUS--**

--I **DO** AGREE THAT DEWOLFF'S ACT IS **LOUSY--**

WOK!

--AND **HAS** TO **GO!!**

UNGHHH!!

*AND THEN IT **SEEMS** TO BE OVER.*

JEAN...**CAPT. DEWOLFF!** ARE YOU **ALL RIGHT?**

COULD BE **BETTER,** MAGICIAN -- BUT I **GUESS** I CAN'T **COMPLAIN!**

HOPE YOU DON'T **MIND** WHAT I **DID,** JEAN! AFTER ALL-- HE **IS** STILL YOUR **FATHER!**

I WAS TRYING HARD TO **FORGET THAT,** IRON MAN!

UH...**KIDS!** FORGIVE ME FOR BRINGING IT **UP--**

--BUT THE GUY IN THE **LONG JOHNS** IS STILL **STANDING!**

AND **HE AIN'T SUPPOSED** TO **DO THAT!**

NO, HE ISN'T!

BUT HE IS-- WITHOUT MY FATHER MENTALLY COMMANDING HIM!

THERE IS NO NEED FOR SUCH A TIME-CONSUMING METHOD, DAUGHTER--

--FOR AS YOU HAVE GUESSED BY MY SAYING THAT--

--IT IS YOUR FATHER WHO CO-INHABITS-- AND RULES--YOUR BROTHER'S BODY!

IT IS NOW TRULY PHILLIP DEWOLFF WHO IS--

--THE WRAITH!!

THEN PERHAPS IT IS THE NOVELTY OF YOUR POSITION THAT HAS SLOWED YOU--

--GIVING ME TIME TO THROW UP A MYSTIC SHIELD AGAINST YOUR ATTACK!

JUST SO LONG AS IT DOESN'T STOP ME FROM BLASTING BACK THROUGH IT, STRANGE!

ZAT!

NOT EVEN YOUR REPULSOR-RAYS CAN HARM ME NOW, IRON MAN--

--NOR CAN YOU BE SURE WHETHER YOU'VE REALLY FIRED THEM--

"--OR WHETHER IT'S ALL IN YOUR MIND!"

HE'S AT IT AGAIN, TEAM! AND IF THAT'S MY IMAGI-NATION COMIN' AT US--

"--IT SURE IS A WHOPPER!!"

SKROOM

BY THE SEVEN VEILS!

HE MAKES THE COURTROOM FLOOR ITSELF TO TRANSFORM!

INTO SOME KIND OF MONSTER, DOC!

BUT...IS IT REAL--?

--OR HAS HE GOT US BELIEVING **AGAIN** IN SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T EXIST--

--EXCEPT IN OUR MINDS??!

A GOOD **BET**, SHELLHEAD--

--BUT HOW DO WE KNOW FOR **SURE?** BEFORE IT'S **TOO LATE?**

A GOOD **QUESTION.** AND, AS THE ANIMATED SECTION OF **FLOORING** CLOSES **IN** ON THE EMBATTLED **TRIO**...

...IT'S UP TO OUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD **SPIDER-MAN** TO SEEK OUT THE **ANSWER.**

HMMM. **FEELS** SOLID!

EVEN MAKES A **SOUND** WHEN YOU **HIT IT!**

WHACK

BLAM!

KROW!

HOW IN **BLAZES** ARE **BULLETS** S'POSED TO STOP A WALKIN' HUNK OF **FLOOR?**

YOU **GET-TIN'** ALL THIS ON **FILM,** JAMESON?

FILM?

AM I GOIN' **FLAKY**--OR ARE THOSE THREE FIGHTIN' **EMPTY AIR?**

THE FIRST MAN THAT **ANSWERS** THAT THE **WRONG** WAY--

--GETS SACKED!

OKAY, PLYWOOD-PUSS! **I** THINK YOU'RE **REAL**--

THWIP!

THWIP!

YOU OBVIOUSLY THINK YOU'RE REAL--

--SO I MIGHT AS WELL TRY **THIS** AND SEE IF IT **WORKS!**

LOOK, MA--**NO HANDS!!**

OOPS! LOOKS LIKE I SPOKE TOO SOON!

CLERK! STRIKE THAT LAST LINE FROM THE RECORD!

RIIII-

-IPP!

UH-OH! NOW SPLINTERS IS REALLY MAD!

THIS IS IT, WEBHEAD! YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE SNUFFED BY A FEISTY FIR!

WHAT A WAY TO GO!

SO, IRON MAN--YOU SEEK TO ATTACK ME RATHER THAN FACE MY CREATION!

IS THAT WISDOM --OR COWARDICE!?

TAKE YOUR PICK, WRAITH.

ALL I'M INTERESTED IN IS RESULTS!

THEN RESULTS YOU SHALL HAVE, MY IRON-BOUND FOE!

ALL YOU WISH! AS MUCH AS YOU CAN STAND--

"--AND MORE THAN YOU COULD EVER HAVE DREAMED POSSIBLE!"

HE'S... DOING IT... AGAIN!

ATTACKING MY... MIND...

STRAIN SO... GREAT...

--IT'S BEGINNING TO AFFECT MY HEART!

BRIAN! STOP IT!

DON'T YOU SEE THAT YOU'RE KILLING HIM?!

DO YOU NOT YET SEE, DAUGHTER, THAT IT IS YOUR FATHER WHO GUIDES THIS FORM, NOT YOUR BROTHER BRIAN?

WHAT HE MEANS, LADY, IS NOW THAT HE'S GOT THE POWER ALL TO HIS LONESOME--

--THERE'S JUST NO MORE NEED TO HAVE HIS "BELOVED SON" BRIAN AROUND TO MUCK THINGS UP!

AND WHY NOT. RIGHT, POPS?

AFTER ALL--IT'S A PERFECTLY GOOD BODY! EVEN IF IT ISN'T YOURS!

AND BRIAN WON'T BE BACK TO CLAIM IT! YOU'LL SEE TO THAT, WON'T YOU?

SPIDER-MAN! IN A COURT OF LAW?!?

THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!

THE READERS OF THE BUGLE WON'T TAKE THIS LIGHTLY, WALL-CRAWLER!

JUST ONE GOOD SHOT --MAYBE MENACING A JUDGE!

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS PUSH THIS BUTTON...

GAAA!

WHAT'D I DO WRONG?!

SPROING!

IRON MAN IS DOWN-- YET THE WRAITH HAS ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BECOME DISTRACTED BY SPIDER-MAN!

PERHAPS NOW IS THE MOMENT FOR THE MYSTIC MASTER TO SHOW HIS MIGHT--

--AS ONLY DOCTOR STRANGE CAN!!

DIE, DEMON OF THE MIND--

--PERISH IN THE CLEANSING FLAMES OF FALTINE!

THOUGH, IN REALITY-- YOU NEVER EXISTED AT ALL!

THE DEMON-CONSTRUCT VANISHES IN FLAMES... AND EVERY PAIR OF LUNGS IN THE COURTROOM HEAVES A SIGH AS RELIEF FLOODS IN...

...SAVE ONE, WHO HAS JUST REALIZED THAT HIS GRASP OF THE SITUATION...

YOU-- YOU'RE RISING!

BUT I SHOULD HAVE BROKEN YOU!

YOU... SHOULD HAVE WRAITH--

...IS SLIPPING!

--BUT YOU DIDN'T!

AND THEN, AT LAST...

...IT'S ALL OVER.

IRON MAN!

I'M ALL RIGHT, DOCTOR! JUST A LITTLE TIRED!

BUT BRIAN--?

SHELLHEAD PULLED HIS PUNCH AT THE LAST MINUTE, JEAN!

ALL HE DID WAS PUT HIM TO SLEEP!

NOW ALL THAT LEAVES IS LAUGHING BOY!

MY WEBBING FINALLY DISSOLVED, HUH, DEWOLFF?

I SWEAR TO YOU, SPIDER-MAN--IF YOU'VE HURT MY SON--!

ME? SEEMS LIKE I REMEMBER YOU PLAYING "INVASION OF THE BODY-SNATCHERS" ONCE YOU GOT INSIDE YOUR KID'S HEAD!

YOU'D MAKE ME LAUGH--IF YOU DIDN'T MAKE ME WANT TO THROW UP FIRST!

I'M NOT BEATEN **YET!** ONCE BRIAN **AWAKENS,** OUR POWER WILL ONCE AGAIN BE **WHOLE,** AND THEN--

THERE WON'T **BE** ANY "THEN", FATHER!

WHAT-- WHAT DO YOU **MEAN?**

SHE **MEANS,** DEWOLFF, THAT DR. STRANGE IS GOING TO **END** YOUR INFLUENCE OVER THE BOY--

--AND **RESTORE** HIM IN THE OFFING.

I WILL **TRY,** IRON MAN.

IT **HAS** BEEN **DONE!** I, MYSELF, HAVE SURGICALLY REJOINED SEVERED **NEURO-LINKAGES.**

BUT THAT WAS WHEN **DOCTOR STRANGE** WAS A **WORLD-REKNOWNED SURGEON**--AND THOUGH NOW I AM **DOCTOR STRANGE, MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS--**

--I AM NO LONGER THE GIFTED **HEALER** I WAS BEFORE.

*THERE IS **SILENCE,** THEN --AND MUFFLED **BREATHING.***

*IF ONE LISTENS **CLOSE,** EVEN **HEARTBEATS** MAY BE HEARD.*

WHAT IS HE--

SHUT UP, DEWOLFF!

JUST **SHUT UP!**

STRANGE?

I SENSE THE DAMAGED NERVES. THERE IS AN **OBSTRUCTION!**

IT MUST BE THE **BULLET**--LODGED IN BRIAN'S SPINE THESE PAST **TWO YEARS.** IT MUST BE **REMOVED.**

MY PROBE INDICATES THAT NO **SCALPEL** OR **TOOL** COULD **REACH** THE BULLET.

THEN, TRULY-- I AM BRIAN'S **ONLY HOPE.**

MY HANDS **TREMBLE!** THE TASK IS **TOO DELICATE--!**

YEARS AGO, AN **ACCIDENT DEPRIVED** MY FINGERS OF THEIR **SENSITIVITY** AND **FINE CONTROL...** ENDING MY CAREER AS A **SURGEON** AND NEARLY **RUINING** MY LIFE!

WILL THAT NOW COST THIS LAD HIS LIFE?

I HAVE RENDERED MY HAND ***IMMATERIAL!*** FOR ONE BRIEF ***SECOND***--AS I TOUCH THE BULLET THAT ENDANGERS BRIAN'S ***LIFE***--AND RENDER IT IMMATERIAL AS WELL--

--MY HAND WILL BECOME PARTIALLY ***TANGIBLE*** ONCE MORE!

IF I SHOULD QUIVER --EVEN SLIGHTLY--AT THAT CRUCIAL POINT--!

NOW.

BRIAN DEWOLFF ***SCREAMS.***

AN EERIE, ***BANSHEE*** WAIL OF THE ***MINDLESS.***

IN THE NAME OF ***HEAVEN,*** STRANGE!

I FAILED! MY HAND-- I--

BUT, WAIT! THERE IS ***ANOTHER*** FORCE AT WORK HERE--

MY MYSTIC PROBE HAS STIRRED A SELF-PRESERVATION INSTINCT IN BRIAN'S BRAIN--

HIS OWN MENTAL MIGHT SHIELDED HIS BRAIN AGAINST MY MISTAKE. AND IT WAS ***ENOUGH!*** THE NERVE-ENDINGS HAVE BEEN ***FUSED***-- THE HEALING PROCESS ***BEGUN***--

--AND THE ***OBSTRUCTION***--

--IS ***REMOVED!***

WH-WHERE ***AM I? SIS?***

WELL I'LL BE...

IS...THAT ***YOU?***

BRIAN!

OH, BRIAN!

TAKE A LONG, ***HARD*** LOOK, DEWOLFF! AT ALL YOU TRIED TO ***DESTROY!***

YOU ***BLEW IT,*** MADMAN --AND I HOPE IT MAKES YOU ***CHOKE!***

A--HEMMM!

THIS ***IS*** STILL A COURTROOM, AND WHILE THE BENCH WILL ***CONCEDE*** THAT THERE ARE UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THIS CASE--

--WE FEEL WE MUST ***RESUME*** BEFORE ***JUSTICE*** IS THROWN OUT WITH THE ***BATHWATER!***

AND SO IT **GOES**, BUT NOT WITHOUT **PROBLEMS** FOR THE **DEFENSE**.

FIRSTLY, THE TESTIMONY OF **SPIDER-MAN** IS DISCOUNTED AS THERE IS STILL A QUESTION OF **CRIMINALITY** HANGING OVER THE WALL-CRAWLER'S **OWN** HEAD...

...AND THOUGH OTHERS STAND **BEHIND HIM**, HE STEPS **ASIDE** RATHER THAN CLOUD THE ISSUE...

WHICH LEAVES EVERYTHING **HINGING** ON THE QUESTION OF THE **POWERS OF THE MIND**--AND WHETHER **ONE** MIND MAY INFLUENCE **ANOTHER**.

SPECIALIST **PROF. CHARLES XAVIER** ANSWERS: "**YES**--AT LEAST IN THE CASE OF A GENETIC **MUTATION**."

THE TITAN-BRED **MOON-DRAGON** DEMONSTRATES THAT THE SUPER-SCIENCE OF AN **ALIEN RACE** CAN ALSO PRODUCE SUCH POWERS.

"BUT," POINTS OUT THE **PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**, "NEITHER CASE **APPLIES HERE**!

AND, UNFORTUNATELY...

...THE **CONSENSUS** OF OPINION IS THAT HE MAY BE--LEGALLY--**RIGHT**.

WE HAVE **HEARD** BOTH SIDES OF THE QUESTION--AND ALL THE **EVIDENCE** IS IN.

THIS COURT IS **RECESSED** FOR ONE HOUR WHILE WE ATTEMPT TO REACH A **VERDICT**!

I'VE DONE ALL **I CAN**, GENTLEMEN --WE'RE NOW AT THE MERCY OF THE **COURT**.

AND I SENSED A **RELUCTANCE** ON THE PART OF THE JUDGES TO ACCEPT THE WRAITH'S **MIND-POWERS** AS PROVABLY **REAL**.

HAVE THEY NOT **EYES**? DID THEY NOT **SEE**?

THEY **SAW**, DOCTOR. BUT **BELIEVING** IS ANOTHER THING **ENTIRELY**.

EVEN **I'M** NOT SURE I CAN RATIONALLY DEAL WITH THE THINGS **I'VE SEEN**.

LIKE THE **JUDGES**, I'M ONLY **HUMAN**.

AS ARE **WE**, MR. BALE--

--ALL **TOO** HUMAN.

ONCE **MORE** THE COURT IS CALLED TO **ORDER**, AND THE **DEFENDANTS** ARE ASKED TO COME BEFORE THE **BENCH** TO HEAR THE **VERDICT.**

BRIAN AND PHILLIP DEWOLFF-- DO YOU **UNDERSTAND** THE CHARGES BROUGHT **AGAINST YOU?**

I--YES SIR.

THEN I MUST **TELL** YOU, THAT WHILE THIS COURT IS NOT **PREPARED** TO ACCEPT THE PROOFS OFFERED AS TO A **"MIND-FORCE"** POSSESSED BY EITHER **YOU** OR YOUR **FATHER**--

--WE **WILL** CONCEDE THAT THERE WAS **SOME** MANNER OF **COERCION** USED TO MANIPULATE YOU, **BRIAN DEWOLFF**--CONTRARY TO YOUR **WILL**--

--AND THAT SAID MANIPULATION WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE FATHER --**PHILLIP DEWOLFF**--AND THAT IT **DOES** CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF **ONE MAN'S RIGHTS** BY ANOTHER.

IN BRIEF-- THE COURT FINDS BRIAN DEWOLFF **INNOCENT** OF ANY CRIMES--

--AND PHILLIP DEWOLF... **GUILTY AS CHARGED!**

NO! THAT'S **IMPOSSIBLE!**

I CAN'T BE GUILTY OF **WISHING** SOMEONE DEAD! **BRIAN** KILLED PEOPLE--**HE** SENT THOSE **BOMBS!***

***MTU** 48-50--ARCH.

EVEN **NOW** YOU'D THROW BRIAN TO THE **DOGS** TO SAVE **YOURSELF**-- WOULDN'T YOU, FATHER?

YOU'RE ALL **AGAINST ME!** IT'S THE **WRAITH** WHO'S A **KILLER**-- NOT **ME!!**

YET IT WAS **YOU** WHO **CREATED** THE WRAITH! I-- I'M **SORRY** FOR YOU, FATHER.

THAT'S ONLY PART **ONE,** JEAN. YOUR DAD'S NIGHTMARE IS JUST BEGINNING.

BUT **OUR** TASK IS DONE. THE **TRULY INNOCENT** ONE HAS BEEN **SPARED.**

JEAN **TOLD** ME WHAT HAPPENED, DOCTOR.

I CAN'T THANK **ALL** OF YOU **ENOUGH!**

PERHAPS YOU **CAN,** BRIAN DEWOLFF!

HUH? WHAT DO YOU--?

HE MEANS THAT BRIAN STILL POSSESSES THE **MIND-POWERS** THAT MADE HIM THE **WRAITH!**

YOU'RE BOTH **LAW-OFFICERS!** IF SUCH A POWER IS **THERE** TO BE USED--THEN IT SEEMS IT **SHOULD** BE USED--

--AND MAYBE THE **WRAITH** SHOULD **LIVE AGAIN**--

--AS A FORCE FOR **GOOD!**

THINK **WELL** ON IT!

AND THEN THE GOLDEN AVENGER AND THE MYSTIC MASTER ARE **GONE...**

...LEAVING THREE **FRIENDS** ON THE STEPS OUTSIDE THE **COURTHOUSE.**

LIKE THE MAN **SAID,** FOLKS--THINK **WELL!**

BEIN' A **SUPER-HERO'S** NO **BED OF ROSES--**

--BUT THEN AGAIN, HAVING SOMEONE AROUND WHO **LOVES** AND **BELIEVES** IN YOU MIGHT MAKE IT A LITTLE **EASIER.**

WHATEVER BRIAN CHOOSES SPIDER-MAN --HE WON'T GO IT **ALONE!**

I DIDN'T THINK HE **WOULD,** JEAN!

GOOD LUCK, PEOPLE--

--DROP ME A **LINE** ON "BE KIND TO **"SPIDERS"** DAY!

WE **WILL,** WALL-CRAWLER!

WE WILL.

WELL, BROTHER?

LET'S JUST GO **HOME** FOR A WHILE, JEAN.

I'VE GOT A LOT OF **CATCHING UP** TO DO.

THIS TALE MIGHT'VE **ENDED** THERE, BUT FOR SOMETHING WE THOUGHT YOU SHOULD BE **PRIVY** TO...

IN THE **JUDGE'S CHAMBERS...**

THAT WAS THE **HARDEST** DECISION WE'VE EVER HAD TO **REACH,** MARTIN.

YES. WE COULDN'T **ACKNOWLEDGE** FORCES SUCH AS **TELEPATHY** OR **TELEKINESIS** LEGALLY--

--YET **MORALLY** WE WERE BOUND BY **KNOWING** THAT SUCH FORCES DO, INDEED, **EXIST.**

THAT THEY DO, MARTIN!

INDEED THEY DO!

THERE IS **LAUGHTER** IN CHAMBERS THEN, AS FIVE PEOPLE KNOW THAT THEY DID WHAT THEY **HAD** TO DO...

...AND THAT THEY DID IT **WELL.**

BUT THAT LAUGHTER IS THOUSANDS OF **MILES** FROM THE SUN-BAKED **DESERT** OF SOUTHWESTERN **NEW MEXICO...**

...AND TO A CERTAIN **GREEN-SKINNED** BEING, **JUSTICE** IS A CONCEPT AS **ALIEN...**

...AS THE FEW RARE MOMENTS OF **PEACE** GIVEN HIM AS **HIS** IN HIS TRAVELS ACROSS THE EARTH.

YET **SEEK** FOR PEACE HE WILL. **ENDLESSLY...**

...FOR HE IS--**THE INCREDIBLE HULK.**

BUT OL' GREENSKIN'LL HAVE TO WAIT AN ISSUE, 'CAUSE NEXT MONTH OUR WEBBED WALL-CRAWLER TEAMS UP WITH NONE OTHER THAN...

CAPTAIN AMERICA!

DON'T MISS IT!

MARVEL TEAM-UP

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

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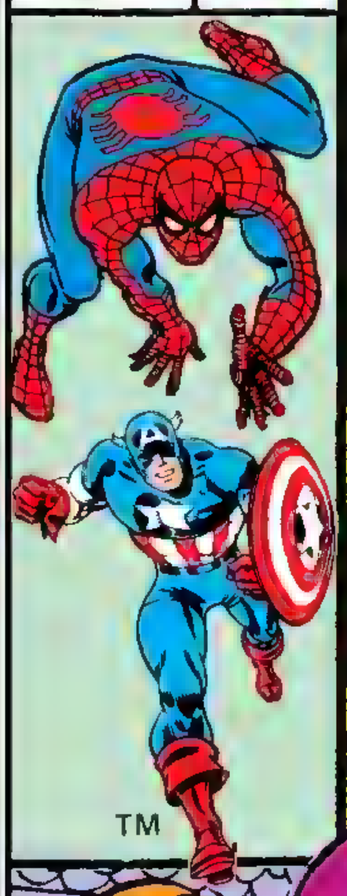

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MARVEL TEAM-UP™

FEATURING

SPIDER-MAN™

AND

CAPTAIN AMERICA™

SPIDEY AND CAP FIGHT BACK TO BACK--'CAUSE THERE'S

"DANGER: DEMON ON A RAMPAGE!"

Stan Lee PRESENTS: SPIDEY™ AND CAP™ ..TOGETHER AGAIN ..BECAUSE YOU ASKED FOR IT!

GERRY CONWAY * SAL BUSCEMA & MIKE ESPOSITO * JOE ROSEN, LETTERER
GUEST WRITER/ EDITOR — ARTISTS/ STORYTELLERS — DON WARFIELD, COLORIST

DANGER: DEMON ON A RAMPAGE!

TWILIGHT OF A DAY BEST FORGOTTEN: AS FAR AS OUR HARRIED HERO IS CONCERNED, TODAY IS A DAY HE COULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT...

UNFORTUNATELY FOR OUR FAVORITE WEB-SPINNER, THE DAY ISN'T YET OVER, AND FROM ONE POINT OF VIEW--

SCREECH!

YAAH!

...IT MAY JUST HAVE BEGUN!

HELP!
SOME SORTA MONSTER, COMIN' OUT OF NOWHERE--
IT'S GONNA MASH US ALL!
OH, GREAT. THIS IS JUST WHAT I NEED:
A JUNIOR-LEAGUE REMAKE OF KING KONG!
AARR!

I THOUGHT I HAD ENOUGH PROBLEMS WITH THE TARANTULA BACK IN TOWN*--
--AND NOW THIS CUTIE SHOWS UP TO MAKE ME MISERABLE!
ONE THING'S FOR SURE, WHATEVER HE IS--
*SEE PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN #1-- NOW ON SALE,-- GER.

--HE SURE DIDN'T ESCAPE FROM THE CENTRAL PARK ZOO!
ARRHH
NO! I DIDN'T EVEN FAZE HIM!

I WAS SO BUSY JOKING, I MIS-JUDGED HIS STRENGTH COMPLETELY!
I'VE GOT TO BACK OFF BEFORE HE CAN--
WHOMP!
UHHHHH
SPRANG!

WOW...I'VE BEEN HIT BY EXPERTS...THE THING... THE HULK...EVEN THOR...
...BUT THAT GUY BEATS THEM ALL!
WHERE DID HE COME FROM, AND WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
WAIT! HE'S TURNING--

--AND NOW HE'S *RUNNING AWAY?* I DON'T GET IT!

ONE MINUTE HE'S TEARING UP THE COUNTRYSIDE, AND THE *NEXT*--

--HE'S FLEEING LIKE A *WHIPPED DOG!*

HEY, WHAT'S *THAT*--?

I *MISSED* IT BEFORE, BUT IT'S A KIND OF *HOLE IN SPACE*--

--*AND* SOME-ONE'S COMING THROUGH!

HUH? *THE FALCON?*

I MUST BE OUT OF MY *MIND!*

TEXAS JACK TO YOU, PARDNER!

FIRST A *MONSTER* CLIMBS THROUGH THAT HOLE, THEN THE *FALCON*--

--AND NOW, A *TEXAS COWBOY?*

STEP BACK--THERE'S FOLKS *BEHIND* ME!

ONE BY ONE, OTHER FIGURES STREAM THROUGH THE GLEAMING DIMENSIONAL DOORWAY--FOR SUCH IT IS, CREATED BY A MADMAN IN AN INSANE ASYLUM TO BRIDGE THE SPACE BETWEEN WORLDS...

AND, THOUGH THEIR NUMBER SEEMS ENDLESS, AT LAST THE FINAL FIGURE STEPS THROUGH THE HOLE IN SPACE--

**SEE THE PAST FEW ISSUES OF CAPTAIN AMERICA.--G.*

--A WEARY WARRIOR SPIDEY EASILY RECOGNIZES AS--

CAPTAIN AMERICA!

THEN--ALL THIS IS SOME-HOW TIED TO *YOU!*

BUT WHAT... *HOW...?*

SPIDER-MAN! WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?

NO, *NEVERMIND*--IT'S NOT *IMPORTANT.* ALL THAT MATTERS IS, THE *PORTAL* IS CLOSING BEHIND ME--

--WHICH MEANS THE EARTH IS *SAFE!*

THOSE MONSTERS CAN'T *FOLLOW* US--NOT NOW, *NOT EVER!*

DID YOU SAY *MONSTERS?*

CAP, I MAY BE *OFF-BASE*, BUT--

FORGIVE ME, WEB-SLINGER. I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR *QUESTIONS.*

THE FALCON'S STILL SUFFERING FROM THE *MADNESS* HE CONTRACTED IN THE *DARK DIMENSION**

*C.A. #201--G.

--AND IT'S UP TO ME TO *BRING HIM DOWN!*

THUNK!

ONLY *SHIELD* HAS A PSYCHIATRIC STAFF *GOOD ENOUGH* TO CURE THE FALCON'S INSANITY--IF ANYONE *CAN.*

SOME DAY, WHEN THINGS HAVE SETTLED, I'LL BUY YOU A CUP OF *JAVA*, SPIDER-MAN--

--AND I'LL EXPLAIN EXACTLY WHAT'S BEEN *HAPPENING.*

MEANWHILE, THE *POLICE* WILL HANDLE THE REST OF THOSE *MADMEN*--

--AND YOUR *ANSWERS* WILL JUST HAVE TO *WAIT!*

NO STAND

HOLD IT RIGHT *THERE*, SPIDER-MAN!

FOR ALL *WE* KNOW, YOU'RE *RESPONSIBLE* FOR THIS MESS!

TERRIFIC. I ASK FOR *INFOR-MATION--*

--AND INSTEAD, I GET *ARRESTED!*

OBVIOUSLY, THIS JUST ISN'T ANY OF MY *BUSINESS.*

"SPACE HOLES"--"DARK DIMENSIONS"--"MONSTERS"--AW, *NUTS.*

I SAID--

--HOLD IT?

LET *CAP* HANDLE THAT STUFF.

ME, I WANT A *BATH.*

AND THAT ENDS *THAT*--RIGHT, READER?

WRONG! OR HAVE YOU (LIKE SPIDER-MAN) FORGOTTEN OUR RUNAWAY MONSTER?

IF SO, DON'T WORRY-- HE'LL REAPPEAR SHORTLY; MEANTIME, WE'VE GOT ANOTHER CHARACTER TO INTRODUCE--

--THE MAN KNOWN ONLY AS BATROC--THE LEAPER!

W-WILL THERE BE ANYTHING ELSE, S-SIR?

MY W-WIFE ASKED ME TO COME HOME EARLY T-TONIGHT, SIR--

TH-THAT IS, IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH Y-YOU.

NO, CASPAR, EET EES NOT "ALL RIGHT"--!

THOUGH YOU WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE HIGHEST CRIME-BOSS IN NEW YORK--

--STILL, I DO NOT TRUST YOU, MON AMI!

TO-NIGHT, YOU MUST REMAIN HERE--WITH ME!

B-BUT, SIR-- MY WIFE--

OH, GOOD-NESS!

SMASH

EEM-BECILE!

THRASH!

THOSE DISHES WERE PRICE-LESS!

PLEASE, SIR! I DIDN'T MEAN TO-- UHHHH!

BEFORE I STOLE THEM, THEY BELONGED TO THE RICHEST FAMILY IN FRANCE!

YOU SHALL PAY WITH YOUR--

THUMP!

QUOI?

THERE EES A SOUND IN THE ALLEY BELOW!

HAS SOMEONE FOUND ME IN MY-- HOW DO THE AMERICANS SAY?--IN MY HIDE-OUT?

EEF SO, I WILL--

MON DIEU!

IT EES NO GENDARME! IT EES LE DIABLE--

A DEMON!

WHAT A STROKE OF ZEE *LUCK!*

SINCE THE ILL-FATED AFFAIR OF ZEE *IRON FIST,** I HAVE *WAITED* FOR SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY--

**MARVEL PREMIERE* 20--G.

--LANGUISHING IN *LUXURY*, BECAUSE THERE WERE NO CRIMES *GREAT ENOUGH* FOR ME TO PERFORM!

BUT NOW I NEED SIT IDLE *NO LONGER!*

ZIS *CREATURE* BELOW--

--HE EES MY *SALVATION!*

EEF I CAN MAKE HIM MY *SLAVE*, I CAN COMMIT ZEE GREATEST *THEFT-- OF ALL TIME!*

UNKNOWN TO CAPTAIN AMERICA, THIS CREATURE WITHOUT A NAME *ESCAPED* THE DARK DIMENSION ONLY *MINUTES* BEFORE CAP'S DEPARTURE...

NOW THE MINDLESS MONSTER STAGGERS *BEWILDERED* THROUGH A LAND IT CANNOT COMPRE-HEND--

FRAGILE

--SEARCHING FOR A WAY *HOME* TO A WORLD WHICH *NO LONGER EXISTS!**

**EVERYONE WHO READ *CAPTAIN AMERICA* #202 KNOWS THAT CAP SET A BOMB TO *DESTROY* THE DARK DIMENSION JUST BEFORE LEAVING THAT WORLD. RIGHT?--GER.

BUT, AS THE MONSTER'S CON-FUSION *BUILDS* TO A RAGING *CRESCENDO*...ON THE VERGE OF EXPLODING INTO *BLIND FURY*...

PARDON, MON CHERI. I THINK YOU NEED A *FRIEND*...

AAR?

AND IF YOU *WISH*...

...THAT FRIEND MAY WELL BE *ME.*

AND, LISTENING, ONLY DIMLY UNDERSTAND-ING...THE MONSTER *NODS.*

LET'S MOVE AHEAD AN HOUR, TO THE MOONLIT SKY ABOVE THE **DAILY BUGLE** BUILDING...

...AS A WELL-SCRUBBED WEB-SPINNER MAKES A TWO-POINT ROOFTOP **LANDING**...

FLOOR 20

...FOLLOWED BY A FAST **CLOTHES-CHANGE** IN A DARKENED STAIRWELL, FROM FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD **SPIDER-MAN** TO FINANCIALLY PERSECUTED--

PETER PARKER!

DON'T TELL ME YOU **WALKED** TWENTY FLIGHTS, SON!

EXIT

OH, **HIYA**, MR. ROBERTSON.

ACTUALLY-- UH-- I GOT OFF AT THE **WRONG FLOOR.**

DAY-DREAMING, PETER?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT, SIR.

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE AT **THIS** TIME OF NIGHT?

MY **CAMERA.** I SORT OF **BROKE** IT THIS MORNING*--

* PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN #1, --YET-ANOTHER-FREE-PLUG GER.

--AND I LEFT IT WITH ONE OF THE **PHOTO DEPARTMENT** GUYS TO GET IT FIXED.

HE SAID I SHOULD PICK IT UP AFTER THE PAPER WENT TO **PRESS**, SO I--

WHOOPS! **HELLO** THERE, JONAH-- ER-- **JONAH?**

HE DIDN'T **HEAR** ME! IS IT MY IMAGINATION, OR HAS JONAH BEEN ACTING **ODD** TOWARD ME LATELY?

AH WELL, BETTER HE **DIDN'T** NOTICE ME. WHO NEEDS A LECTURE **NOW?**

AT THAT PRECISE INSTANT (AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT), SEVERAL BLOCKS **DOWNTOWN**, ON A SOUTH FERRY PIER KNOWN TO A SELECT FEW AS A PRIVATE **SHIELD** DOCKING AREA--

--A **SHIELD HOVER-CRAFT TRANSPORT** MAKES A SECRETLY SCHEDULED **LANDING**, AS--

CAREFUL, FELLA!

THAT BABY'S CARRYING A FULL SHIPMENT OF **TRANS-URANIUM!**

NEW YOR FERRY

EAN NES

ERFRON

SPRANG

YEAH. THE **SCIENCE** BOYS NEED IT FOR SOME **EXPERIMENTS** AT THE NEW YORK **LAB.**

FROM WHAT I HEAR, THAT STUFF'S WORTH A COOL **TEN MILLION DOLLARS!**

THE MONEY ISN'T *IMPORTANT*, DOPE! THAT STUFF'S *RADIOACTIVE!*

LET ONE *OUNCE* INTO THE AIR, AND YOU CAN KISS NEW YORK *GOODBYE!*

CITY FERRY

THAT'S WHY WE--

WHUNK!

MAMA!

C'BOOM!

I DON'T *BELIEVE* IT!

SOMEONE HURLED A *CAR* RIGHT THROUGH THE *HOVER-CRAFT!*

FORGET THAT! IF THE TRANS-URANIUM EXPLODES, WE'RE *FINISHED!*

RUN!

MERVEILLEUX, MON AMI! YOU THREW ZEE CAR SO *PERFECTLY*, EET PUNCHED A HOLE THROUGH ZEE *ENGINE--*

--WITHOUT *TOUCHING* ZEE PRECIOUS *CARGO!*

NOW, WE NEED ONLY DISPOSE OF ZOSE *GUARDS--*

--AND ZEE TRANS-URANIUM WILL BE *MINE!*

CALL *COLONEL FURY!*

WE'VE GOT SOME KINDA *MONSTER* OUT HERE--

--AND IT'S RIPPING US TO *PIECES!*

AARR

YOU FIGHT *EFFECTIVELY*, DIABLE... YET YOU LACK ZEE *STYLE*.

WAK!

IN BATTLE, AS IN LIFE, *STYLE* IS ALL-IMPORTANT. SUCH AS ZEE STYLE OF *SAVATE*--

--ZEE ART OF FIGHTING WITH ZEE *FEET!*

ZO!

KLONG!

AND SO, BATROC!

SPEAKING FOR *MYSELF*, I'VE ALWAYS CONSIDERED STYLE SECONDARY TO *WINNING*.

SEE WHAT I *MEAN*?

AREHOUS

CAPTAIN AMERICA!

RIGHT THE FIRST TIME, LEAPER!

I WAS AT *SHIELD HEADQUARTERS* UP THE STREET WHEN THE *ALARM* CAME IN...

...AND WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE GIVING A *LECTURE*, I JUST KNEW I HAD TO *DROP BY!*

THOMP

PIG!

SINCE OUR FIRST MEETING* YOU HAVE CAUSED ME ZEE *HUMILIATION!*

ZEES TIME, EET IS *I* WHO SHALL HUMILIATE *YOU!*

DIABLE-- MAKE HIM *BEG* FOR DEATH--

*TALES OF SUSPENSE #75.--KNOW-IT-ALL GER.

--AND THEN GIVE IT TO HIM-- SLOWLY!

WHAK!

ARR

I WAS RIGHT! THIS IS ONE OF THE MONSTERS FROM THE MAD DIMENSION! BUT HOW ON EARTH--?

LE CAPTAIN IS COMPLETELY ABSORBED IN ZEE STRUGGLE-- AND DOES NOT NOTICE ZEE LEAPER--!

THUS, I MAY STRIKE WITH ALL MY POWER AND WITH ONE BLOW DELIVER LE COUP DE GRACE--

De ROSA ANNEX

--ZEE DEATH OF CAPTAIN AMERICAAAAAAAA

THAHRUDD!

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, CAP--

--BUT I HEARD ABOUT YOUR LITTLE FRACAS ON A TV NEWS UPDATE!

IN ABOUT TEN MINUTES THIS PIER'S GOING TO BE CRAWLING WITH REPORTERS--

--BUT MEANTIME, YOU'VE GOT ME!

MUCH OBLIGED, WEB-SLINGER!

SO WHAT ELSE AM I GOING TO DO ON MONDAY NIGHT?

I'M NOT A REAL FOOT-BALL FAN, AND I CAN'T-- WHUFFF!

CHOM

FOOL!

DO YOU THINK I CAN BE DEFEATED SO CAVA-LIERLY?

HAVE YOU NO RESPECT FOR MY STRENGTH-- MY CUNNING?

KARAKK!

I DO NOW, CHUM! YOU'RE ALMOST AS FAST AS I AM!

SPAM!

I WAS *SURE* I'D SEALED THESE MONSTERS BACK IN THEIR OWN *DIMENSION**--

* C.A.#202 --G.

--BUT IF ONE OF THEM HAS *ESCAPED*, THEN OTHERS MAY SOON FOLLOW!

I HAVE TO LEARN *HOW* THIS CREATURE CAME TO EARTH--AND TO DO THAT, I NEED TO *BEAT IT!*

BUT THAT MAY BE *IMPOSSIBLE!*

WHAM!

SURRENDER, INSECT! YOU ARE NOT MY *ENEMY*...EET IS LE *CAPTAIN* I WISH TO KILL!

ONCE HE EES DEAD, I WILL TAKE MY TRANS-URANIUM--

CHUNK!

--AND BE OUT OF YOUR LIFE *FOR-EVER!*

FAT CHANCE!

CAP, THESE GUYS ARE *TOUGH*--AND *I'VE* HAD A LONG HARD DAY!

ISN'T THERE *SOME WAY* WE CAN TIE THIS UP?

MAYBE, SPIDER-MAN... IF WE JUST STAY *BACK-TO-BACK*...

YEAH...

YEAH! I SEE WHAT YOU *MEAN*, C.A.!

THEY'RE *CHARGING* FROM BOTH SIDES--AND WE'RE *TRAPPED BETWEEN THEM!*

BEING "TRAPPED" IS A *STATE-OF MIND*, WEB-SPINNER!

WHEN I GIVE THE *WORD*--

"--DUCK!"

KA-BOOM!

THE FALCON COULDN'T HAVE HANDLED THAT DOUBLE-PLAY ANY BETTER THAN *YOU* DID, WEB-SLINGER--

--AND WHAT'S MORE, *IT WORKED!*

ONLY *HALF-WAY*, CAP!

"BATROC IS *DOWN*, BUT THAT MONSTER PAL OF HIS IS STILL *STANDING*... AND GLOWING? HEY, C.A.... WAS HE GLOWING LIKE THAT *BEFORE*, OR HAS SOMETHING NEW BEEN ADDED?"

"IT'S *NEW*, SPIDER-MAN--"

--AND MY GUESS IS, IT'S *DEADLY!*

HE'S RUNNING OFF!

SHOULD WE *FOLLOW*?

NOT WITHOUT *INFORMATION*--

RIGHT! INFORMATION WE CAN GET-- FROM HIM!
OPEN UP, BATROC! CONFESSION IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL--
--NOT TO MENTION YOUR PRISON SENTENCE!
EES IT NOT ENOUGH THAT YOU HAVE DEFEATED ME?
MUST YOU MOCK ME AS WELL?
POOR BABY! ALL WE WANT TO KNOW IS WHERE YOU FOUND YOUR LITTLE FRIEND--

--AND WHETHER HE WAS GLOWING WHEN YOU FIRST SAW HIM!
HE WAS NOT, MON AMI-- OF THAT I AM SURE.
DO YOU THINK-- THIS GLOWING EES DANGEROUS?

I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF IT DESTROYS HALF THE CITY, LEAPER.
MULL THAT OVER WHILE MY SHIELD FRIENDS TAKE YOU INTO CUSTODY.
ROBINSON SEALINE
WORDS, CAPTAIN-- MERE WORDS.
YOU SEEK TO FRIGHTEN ME.
I HOPE I DO, BATROC...BECAUSE FRANKLY, I'M PETRIFIED!

HEY, IS THIS REALLY THAT SERIOUS, C.A.?
I'D STAKE MY LIFE ON IT, WEB-SLINGER!
LET'S GO!

OKAY, CAP-- BUT FIRST, LISTEN TO ME!
THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'VE GOT TO HEAR--!

AND, AS SPIDER-MAN RELATES THE EVENTS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING CAP'S RETURN TO EARTH-- SEVERAL BLOCKS DOWN-TOWN, A GROUP OF LATE-NIGHT TRAVELERS ON THE STATEN ISLAND FERRY FIND THEM-SELVES UNDER ATTACK--

THIS CITY IS CRAZY! NOTHING LIKE THIS EVER HAPPENS ON THE STATEN ISLAND SIDE!
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, FRED--
SHUT UP AND GET OUT OF HERE!
CRASH!
STATEN ISLAND
FERRY
THOOM!
YAHH!

IT STANDS TALL AND UNAFRAID, THIS DEMON FROM ANOTHER WORLD...

AARR

ALONE IN A STRANGE LAND, IT HAS ONLY ONE DESIRE--

TO LEAVE-- TO GET AWAY-- TO GO HOME!

AND NOW, HAVING EMPTIED THIS FERRY OF MEN, IT PROCEEDS TO DO JUST THAT--

--HEADING FOR A DESTINATION ONLY IT CAN COMPREHEND!

IT MUST BE SEARCHING FOR A WAY BACK TO THE MAD DIMENSION!

HE ISN'T GOING TO FIND ONE IN NEW YORK BAY--

THAT'S FOR SURE!

PERHAPS ITS SUDDEN RADIO-ACTIVITY IS A REACTION TO OUR WORLD--IN ANY CASE--

ATEN

--TRACKING IT HERE WAS EASY, SPIDER-MAN--BUT NOW COMES THE HARD PART!

WE HAVE TO DESTROY THAT MONSTER BEFORE THE ALIEN RADIATION LEAKING FROM ITS BODY POLLUTES THE CITY'S ATMOS-PHERE--

--MAKING NEW YORK UNFIT FOR HUMAN EXISTENCE!

NEWS-FLASH, CAP--

--MANHATTAN IS UNFIT RIGHT NOW.

UH-OH... THERE HE IS, PLAYING KING OF THE HILL!

YOU KEEP THE CREATURE OCCUPIED, WEB-SLINGER--

--WHILE I MAKE THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS IN THE ENGINE ROOM.

GOTCHA, CAP.

I ONLY HOPE WE'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING!

FOR ALL *WE* KNOW, THIS DEMON-THING IS LOST--*BEWILDERED*--LIKE A FRIGHTENED *CHILD!*

AND INSTEAD OF TRYING TO *HELP* HIM--

ENGINE ROOM

THORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

--WE'RE GOING TO *ATTACK!*

OF COURSE, HE PROBABLY WOULDN'T LISTEN TO REASON *ANYWAY*--

--BUT I *STILL* FEEL ROTTEN THAT WE'RE NOT GOING TO *TRY!*

AH WELL, SO MUCH FOR MY CRYSTAL-CLEAN *CONSCIENCE!*

WHAM!

HEY CHUCKLES--SURPRISE!

ARR

FROM THE *SOUND* OF THINGS, SPIDER-MAN HAS GOT HIS *HANDS* FULL--

--AND IF I DON'T MOVE *QUICKLY*, IT MAY COST HIM HIS *LIFE!*

CHOM

ON ITS HOMEWORLD, THAT MONSTER CRUSHED ANYTHING THAT *MOVED.*

THAT FACT, PLUS ITS DEADLY *RADIATION*, MAKES IT *MORE* THAN JUST A MENACE--!

IT'S A WALKING *WORLD WAR THREE!*

NOT *NICE*, FELLA.

A LITTLE WEBBING TO THE *DECK* WILL GIVE YOU TIME TO *COOL OFF.*

ARR

FFTT

ASSUMING YOU *CAN* COOL OFF...

DONE. THE FUEL TANKS ARE ALL FEEDING IN AT ONCE--AND THE *SPARKS* ARE READY--

UNNNHH!

CAP WAS *RIGHT!* THIS BABY'S A *KILLER*--

--AND *I* MAY BE THE *KILLEE!*

BAM!

--WITHIN *TEN SECONDS,* THIS FERRY'S GOING TO BLOW *SKY-HIGH!*

SPIDER-MAN... BREAK IT UP!

WE'VE GOT NINE SECONDS TO *MOVE OUT!*

YOU DON'T HAVE A *CHOICE* WEB-SLINGER!

OH, *REALLY?* WELL-- HERE'S ANOTHER-- *NEWSFLASH--!*

THIS-- THING'S-- GOT ME-- IN A *BEAR HUG--*

--AND I *CAN'T--* *PULL FREE!*

I'M-- *WORKING* AT IT--CAP--!

GIVING IT-- ALL MY *STRENGTH--*

NOW!

AARR

FIVE SECONDS, SPIDER-MAN!

PLENTY OF TIME TO *SPARE!*

SAYS YOU!

YOU KNOW, IT *OCCURS* TO ME--SOMEONE IS GOING TO HAVE TO *PAY* FOR THAT FERRY.

SHIELD WILL HANDLE THAT, WEB-SLINGER.

WHAT WORRIES *ME* IS--THE SHIP SHOULD HAVE *EXPLODED* BY NOW! UNLESS I MADE A *MISTAKE*, AND THEN--

BARROOM!

NOPE, NO *MISTAKE*, C.A.

JUST A BROKEN *STOP-WATCH!*

AND SO IT *ENDS.*

IF ONLY THE FALCON'S *INSANITY* COULD BE CURED AS EASILY AS THIS--BUT *SOME* PROBLEMS CAN'T BE SOLVED WITH A SIMPLE *EXPLOSION.*

SOME CRISES JUST *CAN'T* BE BLOWN AWAY!

MORNING: AND OUR *EPILOGUE* BEGINS AND ENDS AT *CITY HOSPITAL*, WHERE...

CITY HOSPITAL

THANKS FOR HELPING ME PICK UP *AUNT MAY*, MARY JANE.

IT'S KIND OF GOOD TO *SEE* YOU AGAIN.

YES, DEAR--IT WAS VERY *SWEET.*

YOU'RE *ONE* PARKER WHO'S OKAY IN MY BOOK, LADY.

NOW YOUR *NEPHEW*... HE'S SOMETHING *ELSE.*

SWELL. I WAS HOPING MJ HAD DECIDED TO BURY THE HATCHET OVER THE WAY I'VE BEEN TREATING HER LATELY--BUT I GUESS I'M NOT THAT *LUCKY.*

HEY, SPEAKING OF *LUCK*--THERE'S A *COINCI-DENCE*--!

IT'S *CAP*--BUT WHAT'S HE DOING IN *THIS* PART OF TOWN?

THE ONLY THING HERE IS A *HOSPITAL*, AND CAP'S THE HEALTHIEST GUY I'VE EVER *SEEN!*

HE'S GOT *EVERY-THING*--

--AN ADORING PUBLIC, A THOUSAND *FRIENDS.* AND BEST OF ALL--*NO PROBLEMS.*

I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A *REAL* HERO LIKE *CAPTAIN AMERICA*--

--INSTEAD OF A CRISIS-RIDDEN SCHLEMIEL LIKE *SPIDER-MAN!*

FINI

BOY YOU TALK ABOUT YOUR *IRONY*--! IF YOU WANT TO KNOW *MORE* ABOUT CAP'S DIFFICULTIES WITH THE FALCON (NOT TO MENTION PETER'S TROUBLES WITH MARY JANE)--YOU KNOW WHERE TO *LOOK*, KIMOSABE! AS FOR MT-U, WE'RE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT OUR *NEXT ISSUE:*

HULK AND WOODGOD!

SEE YOU IN *THIRTY DAYS*, YOU LUCKY FELLA, YOU!

The Mighty Marvel Bicentennial Calendar 1976 house ad
from January 1976 titles

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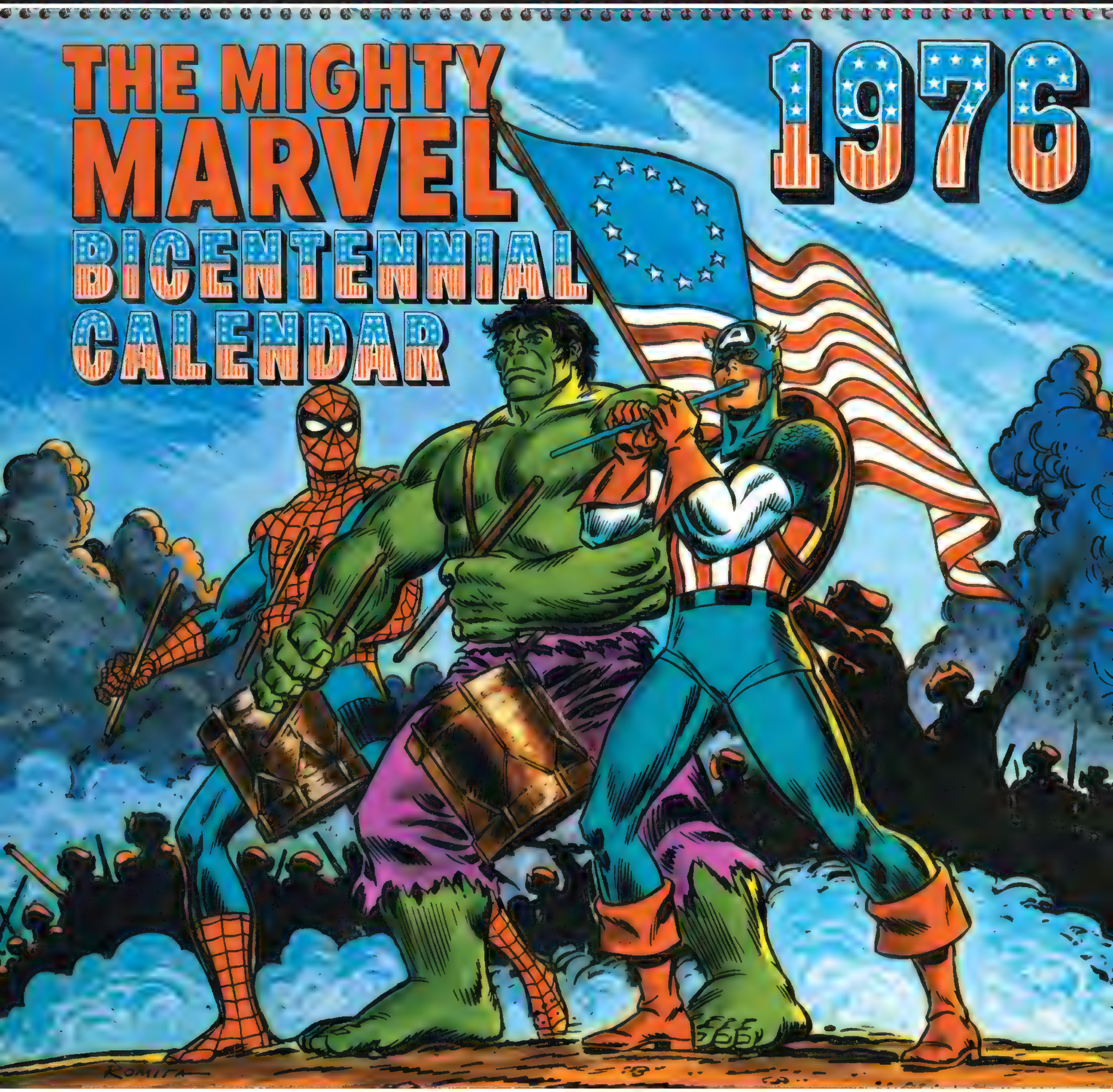
The 1976 *Mighty Marvel Calendar*, written by Tony Isabella and illustrated by a who's who of top art talent, celebrated America's bicentennial by setting Marvel heroes in Revolutionary War contexts. The calendar cover depicts Spider-Man, Hulk and Captain America in an homage to Archibald Willard's 1875 painting *The Spirit of '76*.



Cover art by John Romita

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

THE MIGHTY MARVEL BICENTENNIAL CALENDAR

Happy Birthday, America! Was it only yesterday that you were just a dream in the hearts of the oppressed yearning to breathe free? Was it only yesterday that the land was endless, the rivers ran clean, and the forests bloomed everlasting? Was it only yesterday that we were united as one, illumined by a beacon of hope that brightened the world?

Happy Birthday, America! Now, in the year of your bicentennial, let's remember the legend, let's share in the dream, let's hark to the past. Though your feet were of clay, you nurtured a soul—and how it could soar!

Happy Birthday, America! Many are your moments of majesty, your mysteries, your myths. And now, the myth that is Marvel—like you so proud, like you so fallible—presents this illustrated tribute, in our own light-hearted though loving manner—a tribute to a nation, an ideal, a vision—a land born of hope such as men have never known; a people honed by hardship, sustained by faith, and yet—a people who have often lost their way.

Happy Birthday, America! Though you may falter, though you may stumble, ever do you strive. For there must come a day when all your children will live as brothers, in justice and in peace. Then, and only then, will the promise be fulfilled. Then, at long last, shall you be the America that you were born to be.

Happy Birthday, America!

Stan Excelsior!

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With special thanks to:

MARIE SEVERIN JIM SALICRUP
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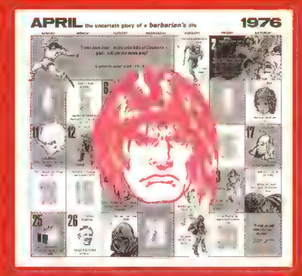
1976 The Year At a Glance 1976



So much for the warm-up, pilgrims! Just turn the page over to *really* get into the spirit of 1976—Marvel style, that is!

Hang on, tigers!

JANUARY Should auld Invaders be forgot . . . 1976

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
"Tell Hitler that our freedom has been threatened before and we're still around to tackle anyone who thinks he can take it from us now! He and his loot-crazed barbarians will find the farmer of Lexington and Concord still very much alive in the spirit of every modern American!" —Captain America (Captain America #10, 1942)				Happy new year, AMERICA! **1** The *first* 200 years are always the hardest!	**2** Birthday Greetings, DON HECK The Ace of the Avengers	**3**
4 Today, *January* — Tomorrow, *the Year!*	**5**	**6** Surgeons begin serving on American ships, 1776	**7**	**8** Alliance between America and France, 1778 *"And we returned the favor!"*	**9**	Thomas Paine publishes "Common Sense", 1776 **10** *"The pen is mightier . . ."*
This is National LIBERTY LEGION Week **11** Take a first-generation Superhero to lunch	**12** THE PATRIOT America's Secret Sentinel	**13** BLUE DIAMOND Harder Than Steel	**14** JACK FROST Sub-Zero Sovereign	**15** MISS AMERICA More than a beauty contest winner	**16** RED RAVEN *"Keep 'Em Flying!"*	**17** THE WHIZZER A mongoose is a boy's best friend
18	**19** *"Like a bad penny, I always turn up again!"* (Capt. America #7, 1941)	**20** AQUARIUS (Trait: Progressive) Doc Erskine—the man who created Captain America	**21** SKY SHARK The most lethal Luftwaffe fighter of them all	**22**	**23** Many happy returns, KLAUS JANSON	**24** Back again by popular demand— JOHNNY ROMITA's birthday!
25	**26** SAL BUSCEMA's birthday . . . . . and this time he remembered to send us a photo!	Today is for MASTER MAN **27** The Nazi Super-übermensch	**28** Before . . .	**29** . . . and *after!*	**30**	**31** *Where's that goldbrick Rogers?* Cap's own SGT. DUFFY

January art featuring the Invaders and Commodore Esak Hopkins, commander of the Continental Navy, by Frank Robbins & Frank Giacoia

FEBRUARY is a green-eyed goliath called the Hulk 1976

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Second Massachusetts Province Congress meets to prepare the province for war, 1775.	2 Between HAMMER . . .	3 . . . and . . .	4 . . . ANVIL!	5	6 Birthday felicitations, RICH BUCKLER (P.S.: The FF're waitin' for ya in August!)	7 THE LEADER Take a super-villain to lunch today.
8 Rest in peace—COL. JOHN D. ARMBRUSTER	Parliament declares Massachusetts to be in a state of rebellion, 1775. 9	10	11 Happy birthday, TONY MORTELLARO Our peerless production personage	12 LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY *"Fourscore and several issues ago . . ."*	Many Happy Returns, DAN CRESPI 13	14 ST. VALENTINE'S DAY
15	16 Many happy returns of the day, RON WILSON	17 An American Family	18 GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS, BETTY ROSS TALBOT, MAJOR GLENN TALBOT	19 PISCES (Trait: Idealism) Doc Samson—magnificent brain and brawn	20 THE GARGOYLE Like father . . .	21 THE GREMLIN . . . like *son!*
22 WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY *"First in WHAT?!"*	23 When he wakes up . . . . . tell DOUG MOENCH he missed his birthday!	24 HULK-BUSTER BASE B.D.* *B.D.: Before Devastator	25 THE DEVASTATOR	26 HULK-BUSTER BASE A.D.* *A.D.: *After* Devastator	27	28
29 It's LEAP YEAR for JARELLA *"I do hereby decree that the Hulk shall be my husband."*						

"Hulk must be free!"
—the Incredible Hulk
(1962, 1963, 1964, etc.)

"One should never put on one's best trousers to go out in to fight for freedom."
—**Henryk Ibsen,** The Enemy of the People

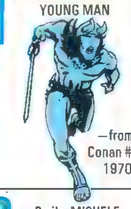
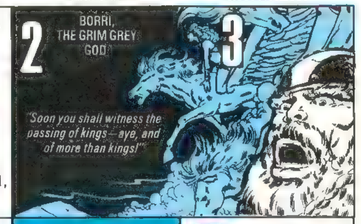
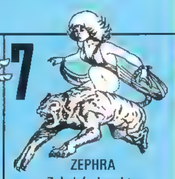
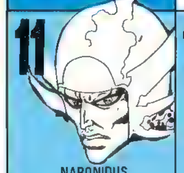
February art featuring the Hulk at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, during the Continental Army's 1777-78 winter encampment, by Herb Trimpe

MARCH comes in like the Black Panther 1976

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
"Too many people warp the word heritage. They use it to mean superiority when it is only meant to give one identity." —T'Challa (Jungle Action #10, 1974)	1 T'CHALLA Chieftain of the Wakandas	2 KLAW Master of Sound	3 ERIK KILLMONGER *"He'll break every bone in your body just to enjoy hearing them snap"*	4	The Boston Massacre, 1770 5	Hey, Captain Marvel fans— 6 It's AL MILGROM's birthday today!
This week is dedicated to 7 . . . The Killmonger Appreciation Society	8 VENOMM He's even deadlier than his name implies	9 MALICE You won't find *her* in Wonderland	10 BARON MACABRE *"Death exists in my limbs—and bursts outward to claim you!"*	11 KING CADAVER is alive and living in Wakanda	12 SOMBRE Guardian of Resurrection Altar	13 SALAMANDER K'RUEL *"Does it bother you that I enjoy the hunt and the battle?"*
14	15 DAN ADKINS was born today . . . . . or so he *claims!*	16	17 MONICA LYNNE *"Lovers don't need critics."*	18 TAKU Wakanda's Communications Commander	19 *"I'm not afraid of that Panther Devil, Kazibe."* TAYETE	20 *"Every time you say things like that, Tayete, we end up getting stomped on."* KAZIBE
21	22 ARIES (Trait: Quick Temper) W'Kabi—head of Court Security	*"Give me liberty, or give me death!"* 23 —Patrick Henry, 1775	24	25 T'CHAKA Father of T'Challa	26	27 Happy birthday, MIKE FRIEDRICH— from Ol' Shell-Head himself!
28	29 —Today is VAL MAYERIK's birthday! Many happy returns, fella!	30	31 First of Intolerable Acts designed to punish Massachusetts, 1774	*"Don't underrate people. Most of them know that a cause may be right . . . though a leader or two be wrong!"* —T'Challa (Avengers #74, 1970)		

March art featuring the Black Panther in the March 3, 1776 naval assault on the British outpost at New Providence Island, the Bahamas, by Bob Brown & Mike Esposito

APRIL the uncertain glory of a *barbarian's* life 1976

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
"I was born free—in the wild hills of Cimmeria—and I will die the same way!" —Conan (Conan #34, 1974)				1 THE BARBARIAN AS A YOUNG MAN  —from Conan #1, 1970	2 BORRI, THE GRIM GREY GOD  *"Soon you shall witness the passing of kings—aye, and of more than kings!"*	3
4	Happy birthday, GIL KANE . . . 5 . . . and BOONESBOROUGH founded by Daniel Boone in 1775	6 ZUKALA *High in his dim, ghost-haunted tower Zukala sits alone . . .*	7  ZEPHRA Zukala's daughter *"Can it be a kindness to foresee the hour of your own death?"*	8 Smile, MICHELE WOLFMAN— —it's your birthday!	9	10 JENNA *"Jenna lies much, you know."*
11  NABONIDUS Take a Red Priest to lunch today	12 Ymir take me—I like you, little man. FAFNIR	13 Then let me go, you great ox . . . And don't call me "little man" . . .	British soldiers sent to Concord to seize Colonial military stores, 1775 14	Happy birthday, TOM SUTTON 15 A Connecticut Inker in King Conan's Court	16	17 YEZDIGERD Prince of Turan A man in whom the sense of destiny rides tall
The midnight ride of Paul Revere, 1775 18	The Battles of Lexington and Concord, 1775 19	20 TAURUS (Trait: Reflective Imagination) Kharam-Akkad—Wizard of Makkalet	21	22 Birthday greetings, SOL BRODSKY (And that goes for you, too, STEVE ENGLEHART)	23 RED SONJA *"Did I tell you I like your armor?"*	24 MIKHAL OGLU, THE VULTURE *"If I bring you not Conan's head, I give him leave to send you mine!"*
25 Special Delivery to . . . Prince Yezdigerd, Turan 17600	26 Avengers Assemble . . . . . . for GEORGE TUSKA's birthday	27 The One, True Living TARIM	28	29 KING CONAN *"For Conan was all things in his day."*	George Washington inaugurated President, 1789 30	*"A man should make his own destiny."* —Conan (Conan #15, 1972)

April art featuring Conan and the Minute Men of Lexington and Concord at the April 19, 1775 battle that began the Revolutionary War, by Gil Kane

Conan ® & © Conan Properties International LLC

MAY Know thou, this is the month for *Thor*

1976

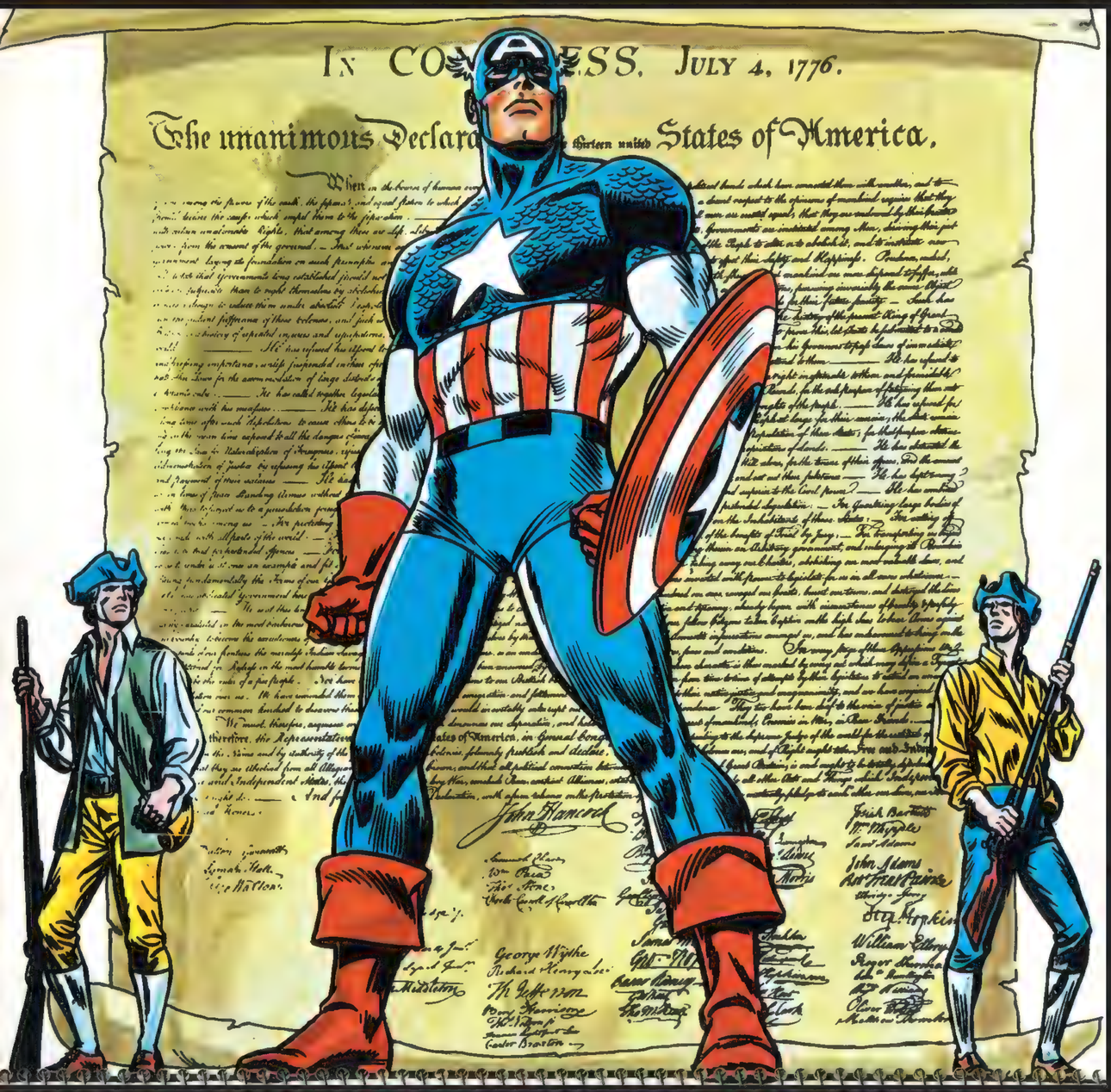
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 ASGARDIAN ARMED FORCES WEEK Take a Warrior to Lunch	3 BALDER THE BRAVE *"The bravest are the gentlest."*	4 HEIMDALL Guardian of the Rainbow Bridge	5 FANDRAL THE DASHING *"What? Only a dozen blades against me?"*	6 HOGUN THE GRIM *"None can probe his innermost thoughts."*	7 VOLSTAGG THE ENORMOUS *"Stout! 'Tis but my muscles that have grown more round!"*	8 HILDEGARDE The *Weaker* Sex?
9	Second Continental Congress, 1775 10 *"We find nothing so dreadful as voluntary slavery."*	11 The women in Thor's life JANE FOSTER and SIF	12 LOKI, GOD OF EVIL *"I am power, fool Literally, power!"*	13 MARV WOLFMAN'S BIRTHDAY Dracula sends greetings, Marv	14	15 ULIK We troll you so
16 It's JOHN VERPOORTEN's birthday Our all-powerful production manager	17 ODIN The *second* most powerful Marvel personage (after John, natch)	18	19 FIRELORD Master of the Cosmic Flame	20	21 GEMINI (Trait: Duality) Dr. Don Blake—the Thunder God's mortal identity	22 HERCULES Son of Zeus, Prince of Power
23/30	24/31 MEMORIAL DAY	25	26 Happy birthday, HERB TRIMPE *"Hulk does not know when his birthday is."*	27 My first War Helmet *"Thou hast the poor taste to wear the ugly thing?"*	28 HELA She'll be the death of us yet	*"If this be treason, make the most of it."* 29 —Patrick Henry, 1765

May art featuring Thor and Ben Franklin experimenting with electricity, by John Buscema & Frank Giacoia

JUNE What is so rare as a Spider-Man 1976

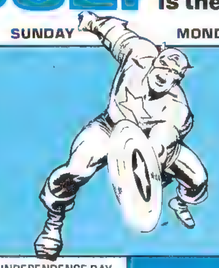
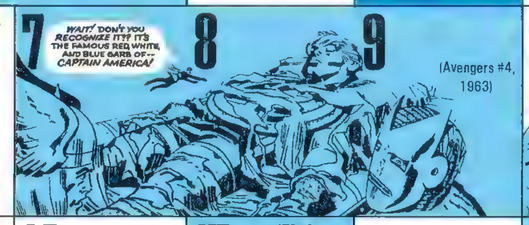
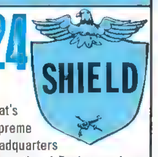
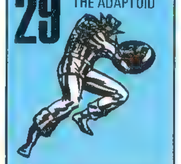
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
"It's a nice feeling, knowing things can still change . . . that there's still room to grow in this country." —Peter Parker (Spider-Man #116, 1973)		1 DOCTOR OCTOPUS The Long Arm of the Lawless	2	3	4 FLASH THOMPSON *"Age, like distance, lends double charm."*	5
6 Today is for Marvel's LETTERERS WONK! We love you all madly!	Richard Henry Lee proposes to Congress that the Colonies . . . 7 . . . *"ought to be free and independent states,"* 1776	8 MARY JANE WATSON *"Face it, tiger. You just hit the jackpot!"*	9 Happy Birthday, GEORGE PEREZ —from Marvel and the Man-Wolf	10 *"My costume is dirty . . . and my other one is torn. I'll look like a slob on color TV."* Spidey's querulous quotes (#380 in a series)	Congress appoints a committee to draft . . . 11 . . . a Declaration of Independence, 1776	12 Many happy returns of the day . . . LEN WEIN
13	14 Congress specifies design of U.S. flag, 1777	15 It's a double birthday! ROSS ANDRU and DON McGREGOR Now guess which one this is!	16 THE VULTURE Fly the Deadly Skies . . . !	17 The Battle of Bunker Hill, 1775	18 In Memoriam BEN PARKER	19 THE LIZARD No relation to the Chameleon
20 ROBBY ROBERTSON Editor of the Daily Bugle	21 SUMMER BEGINS	22 CANCER (Trait: Individualism) THE PUNISHER	23 " 8 issues each of *Spider-Man* and *Spidey Super Stories*, 12 more of *Marvel Team-Up*, guest appearances and reprints!"	24 25 "I want overtime, Stan!"		26
27 BETTY BRANT and NED LEEDS *Wed at last*	Thomas Jefferson presents the Declaration of Independence . . . 28 . . . to the Second Continental Congress, 1776	29 J. JONAH JAMESON *"The Mayor has just declared Spider-Man a menace"*	30 J. JONAH JAMESON *"The Mayor has just declared Spider-Man a hero."*	In Memoriam: THE SPIDER-MOBILE (Spider-Man #130 to Spider-Man #141)		

June art featuring Spider-Man helping defend Fort Garrison from the British navy, by Ross Andru & Mike Esposito



JULY is the unconquerable spirit of Captain America

1976

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 "This nation was founded by dissidents—by people who wanted something better! There's nothing sacred about the status quo and there never will be!" —Captain America (Captain America #130, 1970)				1 It's BILLY GRAHAM's birthday	The Constitution is ratified, 1788 2	3 THE FALCON Born: C.A. #117, 1969 Reborn: C.A. #190, 1976
4 INDEPENDENCE DAY, America! You don't look a day over 199	5	6 Birthday greetings, FRANK GIACOIA The Man with the Brush of Gold	 (Avengers #4, 1963)			10 A World Welcomes the Warrior
11 12		Today's birthday boys: 13 MIKE PLOOG and TOM PALMER	14 Happy birthday, MIKE ESPOSITO and Mickey Demeo and Joe Gaudioso and . . .	15 BATROC THE LEAPER "I fight for zee honair, zee glory, zee money!"	16 Mad Anthony Wayne defeats the British at Stony Point, 1779	17 THE RED SKULL Weren't you hanging around January?
18 It's JEAN THOMAS' birthday	19 THE FOURTH SLEEPER The things people leave lying around	20 THE FIFTH SLEEPER Anybody want to try for six?	21	22 There must be more to life than endless battle . . . (Captain America, C.A. #122, 1970)	23 LEO (Trait: Leadership) Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.	24  That's Supreme Headquarters International Espionage Law-Enforcement Division . . . . . for long!
25 DR. FAUSTUS He kills through the mind	26	27 NIGHTSHADE Queen of the Werewolves	28 THE NOMAD Gone—but not forgotten	29 THE ADAPTOID  Forgotten—but not gone	30 There has to be somebody who'll fight for the dream, against any foe . . . (C.A. #183, 1975)	31

July art featuring Captain America and the Declaration of Independence, by John Romita

AUGUST is a Fantastic Four family picnic 1976

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FANTASTIC FOUR Since 1961 15 Years of Togetherness **1**	2 "I'm cuttin' out of this combo right now!" (FF #3, March 1962)	3 "Well, I've had it! I'm thru!" (FF #40, July 1965)	4 "Sue and I are cutting out!" (FF #71, Feb., 1968)	5 "I'm leaving! Leaving you—leaving the F.F.!" (FF #130, Jan. 1973)	**6**	**7**
8 PRINCE NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER The Avenging Son	9 Inkers of the world, unite! It's BOB McLEOD's birthday	10 ALICIA MASTERS Ben Grimm's heartthrob	New York assembly refuses to support Quartering Act, 1766 **11**	12 THE WATCHER Pledged to Total Non-Interference	13 Sorry 'bout that, JIM MOONEY Your birthday falls on Friday the 13th	14 DOCTOR DOOM The FF's deadliest arch-enemy
15 Birthday greetings, PAUL GULACY And a "Haii-yaaaa" from Shang-Chi, too	**16**	17 Fly the Friendly Skies of Latveria	18	19	20 Deadly Duo, Inc. is formed (FF #8, Sept., 1962)	21 Today is MARIE SEVERIN's birthday. Celebrate, by Crom!
22 Likewise, BOB BROWN Daredevil's Dynamic Delineator	23 VIRGO (Trait: Natural Born Thinker) The Mad Thinker—who else?	24 Deadly Duo, Inc. dissolves, 1962	25	**26**	**27**	28 Happy Birthday, JACK KIRBY WELCOME BACK FELLA!
29 Super-Villain Team-Up, Inc. is formed, 1975 If at first you don't succeed . . .	**30**	31 "Well, maybe just this once."	*"Until men truly love each other, regardless of race, creed, or color, the Hate-Monger will still be undefeated! Let's never forget that!"* —Reed Richards (Fantastic Four #21, 1963)			

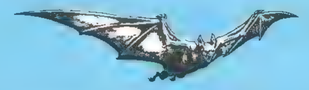
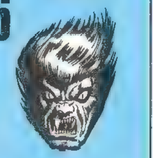
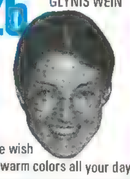
August art featuring the Fantastic Four and the Continental army preparing to evacuate New York City on August 30, 1776 via what is today known as Fulton Landing, Brooklyn, by Joe Sinnott

SEPTEMBER is a mess of MARVEL SUPER-HEROES 1976

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
"People make heroes. We're born from a gut level need to help—and a need for help—against the evil that springs from the minds of men to threaten the good." —Daredevil (Daredevil #100, 1973)			1 Birthday greetings, GENE COLAN —from everybody except Dormammu	2 DAREDEVIL The Man Without Fear	3 THE BLACK WIDOW *"Did you know that I once tried out for the Bolshoi . . .*	*". . . and the Russian Olympics Gymnast team . . .* 4 *. . . and made them both?"*
5 DR. STRANGE Master of the Mystic Arts	6 THE GHOST RIDER Just a motorized cowboy trying to survive	7	8 Happy birthday, ARCHIE GOODWIN	9 Happy birthday, FRANK ROBBINS	10	11 *"Boy, am I glad nobody has a birthday today!"*
This week is for THE X-MEN 12 Take a mutant to lunch	13 PROFESSOR X He started it all	14 CYCLOPS Ulysses who?	15 COLOSSUS The X-MEN go international, Birthplace: Russia	16 NIGHT-CRAWLER Birthplace: Germany	17 STORM Birthplace: Africa	18 THE WOLVERINE Birthplace: Canada
19 LUKE CAGE, POWER MAN Rip a shirt today	20 Today is STEVE GERBER's birthday Humor him.	21 SHANG-CHI Master of Kung Fu Son of Fu Manchu	NATHAN HALE 22 *"I only regret that I have but one life . . ." (1776)*	23 LIBRA (Trait: Justice-Seeking) Matt Murdock—the man behind Daredevil	24 DAIMON HELLSTROM Man of God, heir to Hell	25
26 NIGHTHAWK a.k.a. Kyle Richmond, boy tycoon	27 THE VALKYRIE *"I do not hate men. I merely know I'm as good as they are."*	JOHN PAUL JONES 28 *"I have not yet begun to fight!"* 1779	29 IRON FIST The K'un-Lun Kid	30	*"The path of ignorance and bigotry is muddy because it is well-trod. The path of a wise man is removed from that, and thus is clean!"* —Shang-Chi Marvel Special Edition #15	

September art featuring a host of Marvel heroes and the Revolutionary War-era American flag including thirteen stars and stripes, one representing each of the original colonies, by Sal Buscema

OCTOBER There are more MONSTERS in heaven and earth . . . 1976

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
"So . . . you who have failed to keep a strong rein on your kingdom would now rule by terror. I fear I cannot aid you, your majesties. For I find the presence of fools even more odious than the most foul garlic!"  —Dracula supports the French Revolution in a discussion with King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, Versailles, 1789 (chronicled in Dracula Lives #6, 1974)					1	2 BLOODSTONE He stalks the shadowed lands where monsters dwell
The family that slays together . . . 3 . . . stays together	4 DRACULA Like father . . .	5 LILITH . . . Like daughter	6 JACK RUSSELL  Like brother . . .	7 LISSA RUSSELL . . . Like sister	8 SATAN Like father . . .	9 SATANA . . . Like daughter
10 THE SCARECROW He lurks—in the dead of night	11	12 MORIBUS vs.	13 SPIDER-MAN vs. The tag team match that referees still have nightmares over	14 MAN-WOLF	15	16 Happy birthday, JOE SINNOTT What's a nice guy like you doin' in a month like this?
Burgoyne surrenders at Saratoga, 1777 17 5,700 British soldiers shipped back to England	Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown, 1781 18 "The World Turned Upside Down"	19	20 THE FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER Also, Mel Brooks' washday	21 TIGRA THE WERE-WOMAN Yes, we know it means "man-woman" technically, but what's a little artistic license between friends?	22	23 SCORPIO (Trait: Investigative Ability) Hannibal King—Vampire Detective
24/31 HALLOWEEN Trick or treat, Marvelite	25 THE LIVING MUMMY Modeling the world's longest Ace bandage	26 Birthday greetings, GLYNIS WEIN  We wish you warm colors all your days	27 BLADE The Vampire Slayer	28 RICHARD RORY 29 A Boy and His Man-Thing	30	

October art featuring Marvel's horror antiheroes scaring Ichabod Crane's head off, by Frank Brunner

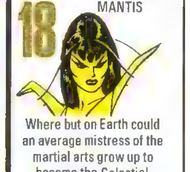
NOVEMBER Soar the friendly skies of THE SILVER SURFER 1976

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
"In truth, I should betray myself if I did not fight to prevent the annihilation of a people!" —The Silver Surfer (FF #49, 1966)	1 *"Mephisto does not scheme—he weaves—he spins."*	2	3 SHALLA BAL The Silver Surfer's beloved	4 ADAM WARLOCK The Man Who Stalks the Stars	5 Birthday greetings, JIM STERANKO Nick Fury says you're a goldbrick	6 CAPTAIN MARVEL It's not easy being cosmic
7 RICK JONES *"You're telling me?!"*	8	9 Happy birthday, BILL MANTLO Say hello to the Sons of the Tiger for us	If it's Wednesday . . . 10 . . . this must be Zenn-La!	11 Many happy returns, DAVE COCKRUM— —and proofreader ROGER SLIFER	12 The Death of Adam Warlock, 1974	13 The Man-Beast Declares War, 1974
14 The Resurrection of Adam Warlock, 1974	15 The Man-Beast signs with Alpo, 1974	16	17 *"Galactus' dentist says he should brush twice a day."*	18 MORDECAI P. BOGGS *"I can always spot a natural."*	19 PIP *"Any stories you've heard of trollish decadence are absolutely true."*	20 Home Sweet Home . . . for Adam Warlock
21 Today is for our proofreaders We love 'em—we think!	22 Happy birthday, ROY THOMAS SAGITTARIUS (Trait: Influential)	23 NORRIN RADD He gave up a world to become the Silver Surfer	24 GALACTUS No snacking between meals, okay?	THANKSGIVING Last British forces sail from New York, 1783 25 All this, and CHRIS CLAREMONT's birthday	26 We put KILLRAVEN here . . . . . because CRAIG RUSSELL wouldn't tell us when his birthday was!	27 THANOS The Mad Emperor of Titan
28 Position wanted—will work six days a week Contact the High Evolutionary	29 MOONDRAGON *"Gee, I hadn't noticed you were bald."*	30	*"I see other worlds where the Man-Beast has not yet been recognized and exposed. I must go to those other worlds and do as I have done here. "For all living things are kindred to one another—no matter what their outward form. In helping one, we help all. Remember that always, my friends. "If you do, I shall never leave you."* —Adam Warlock (Hulk #178, 1974)			

November art featuring Marvel's cosmic heroes and the *Andrea Doria*, the first foreign vessel to salute the American flag, by Jim Starlin & Alan Weiss

December art featuring the Avengers re-enacting George Washington's December 25-26, 1776 crossing of the Delaware River, by Jim Mooney

DECEMBER It's beginning to look a lot like the AVENGERS 1976

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	"We ask merely a man's worth . . . not the accident of his condition!" —Henry Pym (Avengers #58, 1968)		1 Today is for LOKI Without him, the Avengers would have never assembled	2	3 Many happy returns of the day Assistant Editor JOHN WARNER	4 The Hulk gets his Avengers I.D., 1963
5 HAWKEYE *"What better weapons than my infallible arrows?"*	6 GOLIATH II *"I'm not gonna play Robin Hood any more."*	7 HAWKEYE *"There ain't no Goliath, pal—not any more!"*	8 And one of these days . . . He'll finally make up his mind!	9 IRON MAN a.k.a. Tony Stark . . .	10 . . . the man who pays the Avengers' bills *"You should see the tax break I get!"*	11 Happy birthday, JOHN BUSCEMA Penciller Without Peer
This is Avengers Veteran Week 12 Take a . . . naw, we've done that gag too often this year!	13 QUICKSILVER Address all inquiries: Hidden Land, Box 1702	14 HERCULES Banished to Earth, he became . . . an Avenger!	15 THE BLACK KNIGHT Address all inquiries: c/o King Richard, the Crusades	We interrupt this week to bring you . . . 16 The Boston Tea Party, 1773	17 In Memoriam THE SWORDSMAN	18 MANTIS  Where but on Earth could an average mistress of the martial arts grow up to become the Celestial Madonna?
19 JARVIS The Avengers' Butler and Trusted Friend	20	21 *"Our anniversary was last month, Hank!"*	22 Happy birthday, TONY ISABELLA OUT WRITING CALENDAR -- BACK IN '77 CAPRICORN (Trait: Not Easily Excited?)	23 Happy anniversary, WANDA and the VISION	24 Not for two months, hockeypuck! CHRISTMAS EVE	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS From all of us to all of you
The Battle of Trenton, 1776 26	27 GOLIATH III Third time's the charm	28 Happy birthday, O fearless leader How does it feel to be a living legend?	29	30 Gee, the ranks of the Avengers are filled Try again next year	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	HAPPY NEW YEAR, CALENDAR BUFFS!

THE BEN GRIMM GUIDE TO 1976'S PULSATING PIN-UPS!

Okay, gang, just in case ya ain't **up** on yer American history and folklore, here's a little **explanation** a' the **events** behind the **pictures**—straight from Aunt Petunia's favorite nephew ta **you!**

In **January,** THE INVADERS (ol' Cap America, Bucky, the original Human Torch, Toro, and the Sub-Mariner) are pallin' around with **Commodore Esek Hopkins,** the commander of the Continental Navy. On the fifth of the month—in 1776, natch—Congress ordered the 8-vessel squadron out to sea ta seek the British fer the **first** time.

February is fer **General George Washington.** Personally, I figger the father of our country deserves a **better** monthmate than ol' Jade-Jaws—a.k.a. THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

March shows the first American **amphibious assault** . . . guesting THE BLACK PANTHER. Marines and sailors landed on the British outpost of **New Providence Island** in the Bahamas on March 3, 1776, and took possession of British **war stores** wit'out **touchin'** the property or persons of the inhabitants. Now that's **real** class!

April is dedicated ta the farmers of **Lexington** and **Concord**—the minute men who showed us just what the spirit a' **freedom** wuz all about. The gent with the sword is CONAN THE BARBARIAN. And, fer the record, the battles took place on **April 19, 1775.**

We set aside **May** fer **Ben Franklin.** He's one guy that crowded a whole lot a' livin' into his life. Among other things, ol' Ben discovered **electricity** . . . mebbe with a little help from THE MIGHTY THOR? Could be.

Movin' on ta **June,** we've got SPIDER-MAN helpin' in the successful defense of **Fort Garrison** (South Carolina) against the British fleet under **Sir Peter Parker.*** That little **holdin' action** put the **kibosh** on British operations in the south fer nearly **two years** . . . and that's how it wuz in **1776.**

July is the biggie—the signing of the **Declaration of Independence.** An' about 170 years later, we dreamed up the living **symbol** of what that hunk a' paper meant . . . CAPTAIN AMERICA!

In **August** of 1776, the Continental Army got itself **trapped** on Long Island, but General Washington managed ta **evacuate** his men in the nick a' time. The General wuz the last to leave . . . even after THE FANTASTIC FOUR (that's me and my **pards**—the Human Torch, the Invisible Girl, and Mister Fantastic).

September is our tribute ta the original **Stars and Stripes**—as designed by Betsy Ross. The heroes paying their respects are: THE BLACK WIDOW, DAREDEVIL, DR. STRANGE, GHOST RIDER, POWER MAN, SHANG-CHI, and THE SON OF SATAN.

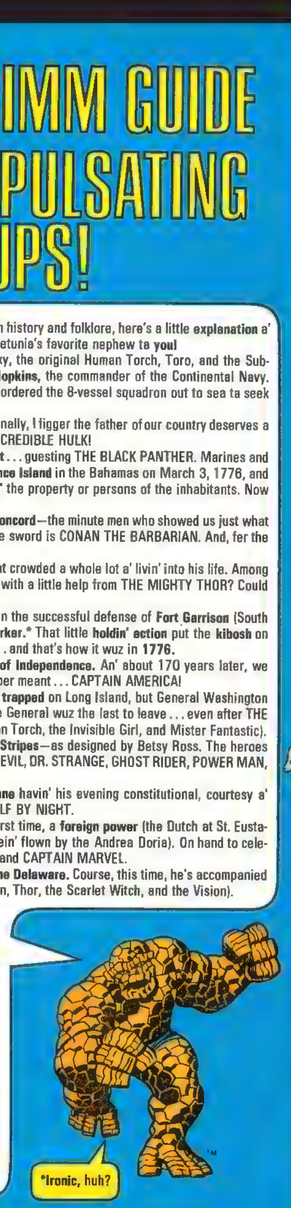
October is fer you Halloween-freaks—**Ichabod Crane** havin' his evening constitutional, courtesy a' DRACULA, THE MAN-THING, and a certain WEREWOLF BY NIGHT.

November, 1776, wuz a minor milestone. Fer the first time, a **foreign power** (the Dutch at St. Eustatius in the West Indies) **saluted** the American flag (bein' flown by the Andrea Doria). On hand to celebrate the occasion: WARLOCK, THE SILVER SURFER, and CAPTAIN MARVEL.

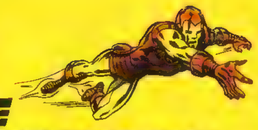
December is another biggie: **Washington crossin' the Delaware.** Course, this time, he's accompanied by THE AVENGERS (Capt. America, Hawkeye, Iron Man, Thor, the Scarlet Witch, and the Vision).

Before I **split,** I wanna **thank** the various pencil-pushers an' inkin' masters who did up these pin-ups fer mighty Marvel. Startin' from the top: **Frank Robbins** and **Frank Giacoia** (January); **Herb Trimpe** (February); **Bob Brown** and **Mike Esposito** (March); **Gil Kane** (April); **John Buscema** and **Frank Giacoia** (May); **Ross Andru** and **Mike Esposito** (June); **John Romita** (July), **Joe Sinnott** (August); **Sal Buscema** (Septemper); **Frank Brunner** (October); **Jim Starlin** and **Alan Weiss** (November); and **Jim Mooney** (December). Yer a buncha a' 8-bails, but we lova ya!

One **last** bit a' business: this calendar was colored by **Glynis Wein, George Roussos, Janice Cohen, Michele Wolfman, Frank Brunner,** and **Jim Starlin.** So I wanna hear a round of **applause** fer them, too! See ya in the **funny papers,** tiger!



Revealed at last!



THE WONDROUS WINNER TO LAST YEAR'S MIGHTY MARVEL CALENDAR CONTEST

CAPRICORN

by Joe Binggeli
(Marina, California)

In Joe's own words: "His sign is the **goat,** hence the goat legs and horns. His ruling planet is **Saturn,** world of such **virtues** as endurance, industriousness, reliability, stability, patience, and concentration. Capricorns are **victors,** achieving any goal through hard work.

"His element is **earth** and his birthstone is **garnet.** (There's a garnet in his belt.) His suit is **red.** He relies on no **weapon,** save his **own** physical and mental powers."

Congratulations, Joe. We're sending you your **prize**—a drawing of your creation by our own **Johnny Romita**—post haste. Maybe Capricorn will even turn up in one of Marvel's **own** mags someday. In the meantime, here's a big **thanks** to all of you who entered our cavortin' contest. We had a **blast** goin' through your entries and we only wish **all** of you could've won! **'Nuff said!**

THE MIGHTY MARVEL BIRTHDAYS GO ON AND ON...

January
3 TONY CERNIGLIA—Mage of the Mailroom
4 CHIC STONE—Inker Incredible
14 JOHN TARTAGLIONE—Cataclysmic Correctionist
19 JOE STATON—Emerald Embellisher
20 KEITH POLLARD—Deathlok Depictor
31 PATY GREER—Art Assistant Amazing
CHRIS MAC Production's Kid Friday

February
10 IRV WATANABE—Lilting Staff Letterer
27 ALAN LeMOND—Nostalgia Illustrated Editor
28 NANCY MURPHY—Sorceress of Subscriptions

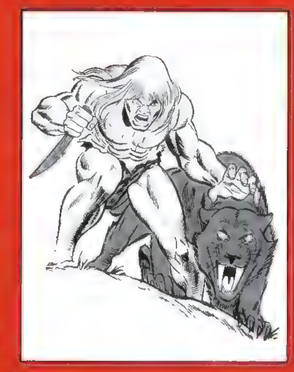
March
7 GRAY MORROW—Painter Without Peer
ALAN WEISS—Someday his pencils will come
13 HARRY BLOOMFELD—Likewise, Staff Letterer
14 LENNIE GROW—Magazine Production Chief
18 FRANK McLAUGHLIN—Inker for a Man-Wolf
29 LINDA LUCERO—Siren of the Stat Room
31 SCOTT EDELMAN Minister of InFOOMation

April
21 STAN AARON The Typesetter of Steel
23 NANETTE JACOVITZ—Her and Shakespeare
28 DICK AYERS Kid Colt's Main Man

May
5 STAN GOLDBERG—King of Colorists
19 BONNIE SMITH—Mayven of the Fan Mail
28 MORRIE KURAMOTO Lord of the Letterers
29 JIM SALICRUP—British Weeklies Editor

June
8 RAY HOLLOWAY Lion-Hearted Letterer
14 SAM GRAINGER—He inks in beauty like the night
20 DUFFY VOHLAND Dynamic Duff-of-all-trades

July
9 VIRGINIA ROMITA—Office Den Mother/Sweetheart
15 JACK ABEL—Is He Ever!
18 JEAN THOMAS Spidey Super Stories' Saucy Scripter
31 DENISE VLADIMER—Lettering Lass



August
2 DAVE HUNT—Nifty Neo-Inker
14 JOHN COSTANZA—The Letterer of Champions
18 BARBARA ALTMAN Demure Designer
19 GEORGE ROUSSOS—High Priest of Hue
25 DON WARFIELD Rainbow Ranger
27 FRANK KELLY FREAS—Crazy Cover Masterpainter

September
1 PHIL RACHELSON—The Stalking Stat Man
GASPAR SALADINO—Lord of the Logos
2 MARCIA GLOSTER—Dean of Design
5 ARV JONES—Pulse-Pounding Penciller
10 JOSIE BETEMIT—Receptionist Radiant
18 IRENE VARTANOFF—Edifying Assistant Editor
25 HOWARD BENDER—Production Person

October
7 HOWARD CHAYKIN—Himself
10 MITCH SCHEELE—Jim Salicrup's Good Right Hand
25 MICHELE BRAND—Toner Terrific
28 KAREN MANTLO—The Lady Who Letters
30 CRAIG RUSSELL—Now he tells us!

November
15 STU SCHWARTZBERG—Stat Man Supreme
20 CHARLOTTE JETTER—Jetter letters
26 DAN GREEN The Inker From Upstate

December
6 FRANK SPRINGER Inker Erudite
11 MARY MAC—John Verpoorten's Gal Friday
12 FRED KIDA—Remember the Ringo Kid?
16 JEAN PERLITZ—Ms. Murphy's assistant

AND SO IT ENDS...

Just a few words before we part company, Keepers of the Flame. We have had an absolute **ball** producing this annual extravaganza and we only hope you've had **half** as much fun reading it. You can bet we'll be back **next year** with yet another cosmic calendar. In the **meantime,** though, how about dropping a line or two of comment on **this year's** production to us? Your criticisms and suggestions are **appreciated . . . believe it!** The address is: MARVEL CALENDAR; 575 MADISON AVENUE; NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022. We'll be eagerly awaiting your response.

Okay, group, one **last** thought. Have one **heck** of a 1976, but **remember:** this isn't the **end** of the bicentennial. It just brings us that much closer to the **tricentennial.** Hang loose and rotate your face to the front, Marvelite. We're in this **together!**

MARVEL'S

ON THE MOVE!

SBN 671-22188-40 Manufactured in the U.S.A.

Marvel Team-Up #42 cover original art by Ed Hannigan & Mike Esposito

OCT SCH.

COLOR

WORLD COLOR

MARVEL TEAM-UP #42 (FEB)

MARVEL TEAM-UP

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

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25¢ CC

42 FEB 02147

MARVEL TEAM-UP™

FEATURING

SPIDER-MAN AND THE VISION

YOUR POWERS CANNOT HARM ME, FOOLS!

BUT YOU WILL BE DESTROYED IN AN INSTANT-- AT THE COMMAND OF THE DARK RIDER!

HARBINGER OF HATE!

YELLOW TS

RED TS

BLACK TS

BLUE TS

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

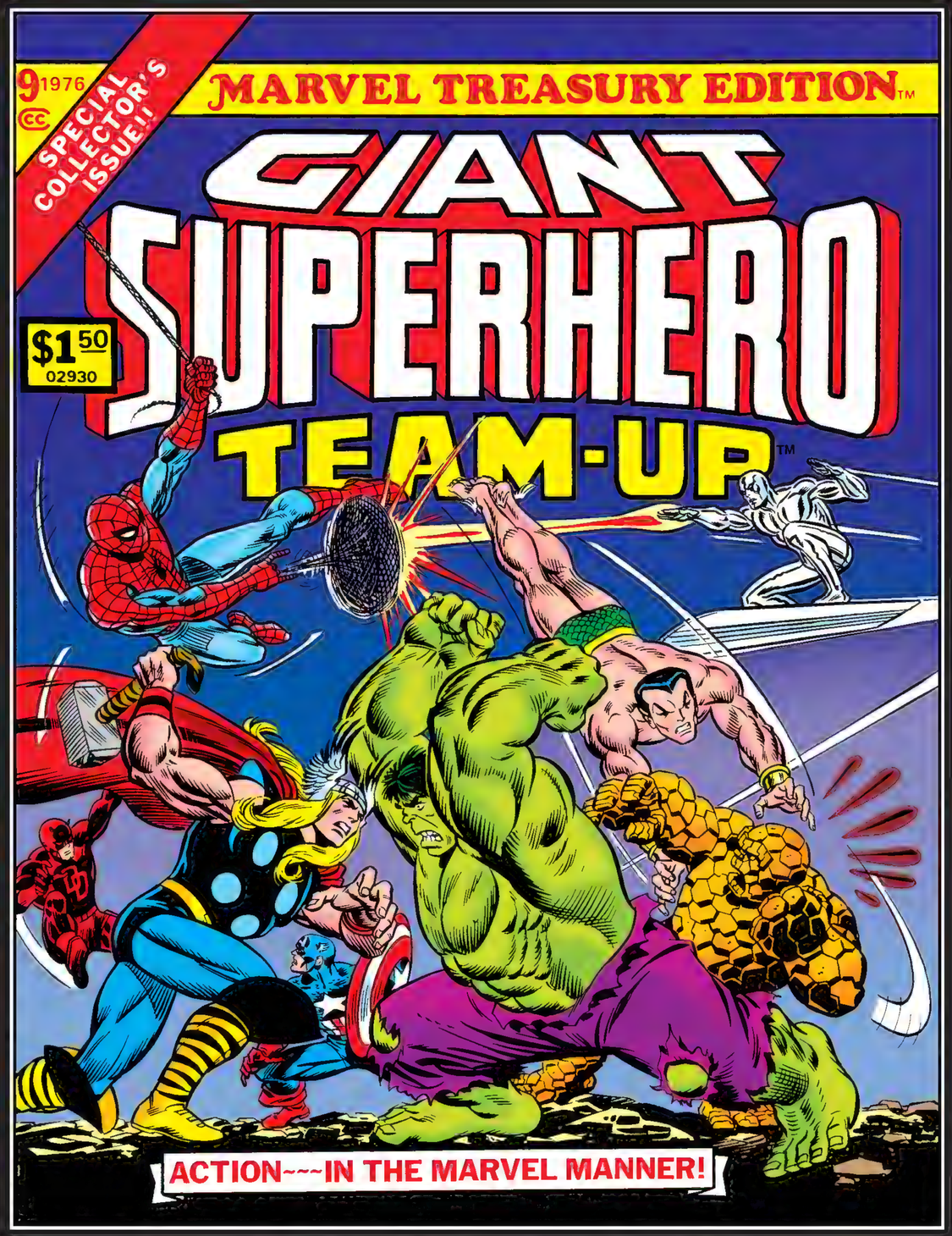
Marvel Treasury Edition #9, front cover pencil art
by Gil Kane

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

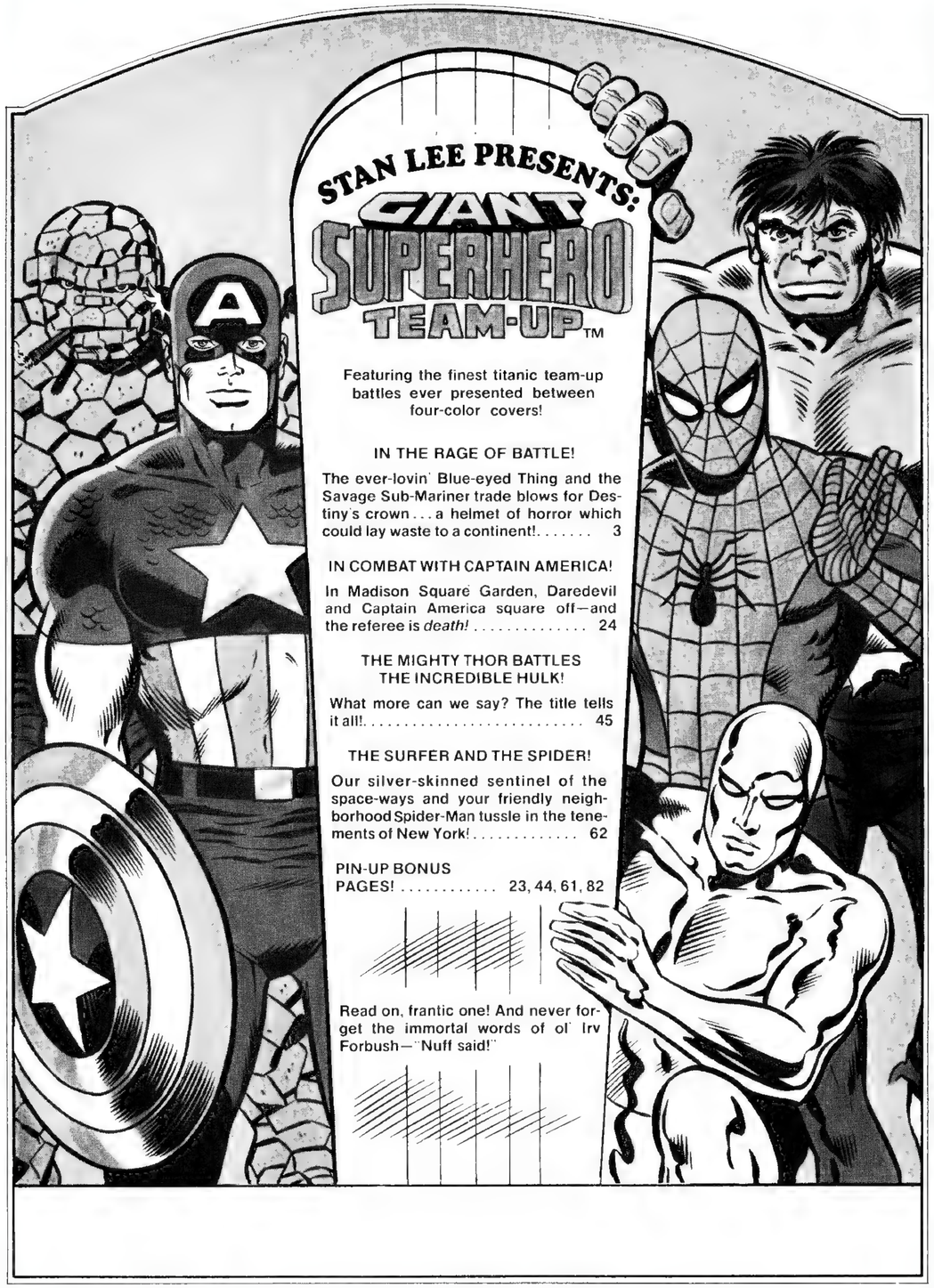
Marvel Treasury Edition #9, back cover pencil art
by Gil Kane

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

Between cover art by Gil Kane & John Romita, *Marvel Treasury Edition* #9 (1976) reprinted the super hero battle stories from *Daredevil* #43, *The Sub-Mariner* #8, *Journey Into Mystery* #112 and *The Silver Surfer* #14.



Marvel Treasury Edition #9, inside-front cover, frontispiece



Featuring the finest titanic team-up battles ever presented between four-color covers!

IN THE RAGE OF BATTLE!

The ever-lovin' Blue-eyed Thing and the Savage Sub-Mariner trade blows for Destiny's crown . . . a helmet of horror which could lay waste to a continent!. 3

IN COMBAT WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA!

In Madison Square Garden, Daredevil and Captain America square off—and the referee is *death!* 24

THE MIGHTY THOR BATTLES THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

What more can we say? The title tells it all!. 45

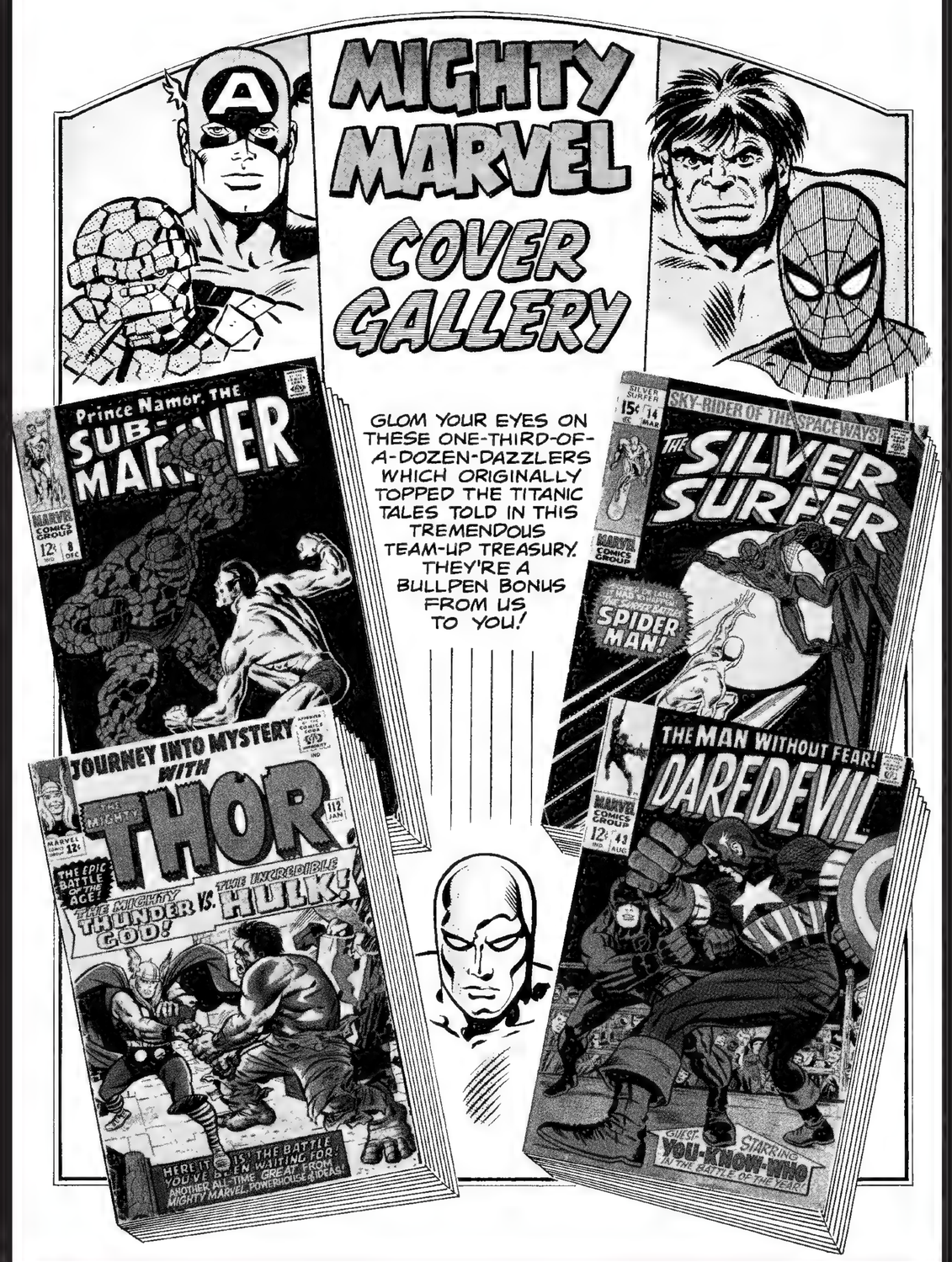
THE SURFER AND THE SPIDER!

Our silver-skinned sentinel of the space-ways and your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man tussle in the tenements of New York!. 62

PIN-UP BONUS PAGES! 23, 44, 61, 82

Read on, frantic one! And never forget the immortal words of ol' Irv Forbush—"Nuff said!"

Marvel Treasury Edition #9, inside-back cover
cover gallery with frontispiece headshots


MIGHTY MARVEL COVER GALLERY
GLOM YOUR EYES ON THESE ONE-THIRD-OF-A-DOZEN-DAZZLERS WHICH ORIGINALLY TOPPED THE TITANIC TALES TOLD IN THIS TREMENDOUS TEAM-UP TREASURY. THEY'RE A BULLPEN BONUS FROM US TO YOU!
Prince Namor, THE SUB-MARINER
THE SILVER SURFER
SKY-RIDER OF THE SPACEWAYS!
SPIDER MAN!
JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY WITH THE MIGHTY THOR
THE EPIC BATTLE OF THE AGES!
THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD! VS. THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
HERE IT IS! THE BATTLE YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! ANOTHER ALL-TIME GREAT FROM MIGHTY MARVEL POWERHOUSE OF IDEAS!
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR! DAREDEVIL
GUEST-STARRING YOU-KNOW-WHO IN THE BATTLE OF THE YEAR!

Marvel Treasury Edition #13 (1976) cover original art
by Gil Kane & Joe Sinnott with alterations by John Romita

Note that Daredevil was kicked out of Thing's sleigh in the final version of the cover. What a Scrooge! Maybe the Yancy Street Gang is right about him!

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

Between cover art by Gil Kane, Joe Sinnott & John Romita, *Marvel Treasury Edition* #13 (1976) reprinted stories from *Marvel Team-Up* #6, *The Avengers* #58, *Tales to Astonish* #93 and *Daredevil* #86 — plus a new, holiday-themed framing story by Roger Stern, George Tuska & Don Perlin.

GIANT
SUPERHERO
HOLIDAY
GRAB-BAG
™
Vol. 1, No. 13 1976
A CHRISTMAS GIFT
PACKAGE FOR YOU!
'TIS THE SEASON 3
The Fantastic Four and the Avengers face off in a decidedly different battle royale!
...AS THOSE WHO WILL NOT SEE! 6
Spidey and the Thing must take on the malevolent menace of the Puppet Master and the Mad Thinker!
EVEN AN ANDROID CAN CRY 27
The Vision joins the ranks of Earth's Mightiest Heroes!
HE WHO STRIKES THE SILVER SURFER 49
The Hulk battles the Sentinel of the Skyways!
ONCE UPON A TIME—THE OX! 61
One of the most dramatic turning points in the career of Daredevil!
Plus ... guest-appearances by the Defenders and the Champions!

'TIS THE SEASON

Roger Stern SCRIPT / George Tuska ART / Don Perlin INKS / Gaspar LETTERS / D. Warfield COLORS / Archie Goodwin EDITOR

THERE'S SOMETHING MAGICAL ABOUT SNOW. IT DRIFTS DOWN TO COVER THE GROUND WITH A FLEECY WHITE COAT, BRINGING A SPARKLE TO CHILDREN'S EYES--AND BRINGING OUT THE CHILD IN US ALL!

READY WHEN YOU ARE, BEN!

YEAH, GIVE US THE WORD!

AWRIGHT, THEN--

--IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!

IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN JUST **WHO** WILL CLOBBER **WHOM**, MY FRIENDS! *HAVE AT YOU!*

*THE RUGBY AND SOFTBALL FIELDS OF CENTRAL PARK HAVE YIELDED TO THE WINTRY COVERING--AND TO THE FIRST ANNUAL **UNITED CHARITIES SNOWBALL FIGHT!***

USING A FORCE FIELD MAY NOT EXACTLY BE FAIR--BUT--

DON'T SWEAT IT, SIS! I KNOW **I** DON'T INTEND TO GET SPLATTERED!

MAYBE SO, TORCH--BUT WE AVENGERS AREN'T EXACTLY DEFENSELESS *OURSELVES!*

INDEED, CAP!

THE EVER-AGILE *BEAST* CAN HOLD HIS OWN AGAINST--*MMMPPHH!*

SPLAT!

HEY--!

HAW-HAW-HAW! AGILE OR NOT, YOU SURE MAKE A HECKUVA TARGET, BEASTIE!

WHUMP!

WHAT THE--!

AWRIGHT-- WHO'S THE WISE GUY? WHO'S THE WISE GUY?

HIYA, THING, OL' BUDDY! HOW'S TRICKS?

YOU! I MIGHTA KNOWN! WHY, I OUGHTA--

AW-- I CAN'T GET MAD AT THE WALL-CRAWLER WITH MY ADORIN' PUBLIC LOOKIN' ON!

I HOPE THERE'RE NO HARD FEELINGS, BLUE-EYES!

FERGIT IT, WEB-HEAD!

BUT YER GONNA GET ASHES IN YER STOCKING FER THIS--

THEY'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT TOGETHER, THESE TWO. MERE MONTHS AGO THEY SAVED NEW YORK FROM THE THREAT OF THE BASILISK*.

*M.T.I.O. #17 and M.T.U. #47--ARCH

TO KNOW... TO UNDERSTAND ONE'S FELLOW MAN--PERHAPS THAT IS THE SECRET REVEALED BY THE SNOW--THE SECRET OF FELLOWSHIP AND OF JOY!

HAPPY, JAN?

YOU KNOW IT, LOVER! WE REALLY *SHOULD* DO THIS MORE OFTEN!

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN! IT DOES FEEL GOOD TO JOIN THE OTHERS WITHOUT HAVING TO FIGHT SOME WORLD-THREATENING *MENACE!*

I JUST WISH *IRON MAN* AND *THOR* COULD HAVE COME WITH US!

BY THE WAY, MRS. PYM, HAVE I COMPLIMENTED YOU UPON YOUR *ATTIRE?*

THIS OLD THING? IT'S JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING I DUG OUT OF THE CLOSET!

SURE--I REMEMBER NOW! YOU WERE WEARING THAT--

--WHEN THE *VISION* JOINED US!

DID I HEAR MY NAME MENTIONED?

ONLY IN THE BEST OF COMPANY! C'MON YOU TWO-- COME JOIN US *OLD* MARRIED FOLKS!

STRANGE HOW THE VISION STILL STRIKES SOME AS BEING *COLD* AND *UNCARING!* IF ONLY THEY KNEW HIM AS *WE* DO! WHAT WAS IT HANK ONCE SAID--

...A CRY OF COMPASSION--THAT'S WHY WE WERE ALL HERE TODAY. AND SO, ON BEHALF OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND THE AVENGERS, I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL FOR TURNING OUT AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE UNITED CHARITIES!

AND WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL HERE AGAIN NEXT YEAR--OKAY?

THE CROWD DISPERSES QUICKLY--THE ONLOOKERS EAGER TO GET BACK TO HEARTH AND HOME--AND A MOST UNUSUAL COUPLE BEGINS A QUIET STROLL BACK TO AVENGERS MANSION...

OH, LOOK! A SHOOTING STAR! YOU KNOW, WHEN I WAS A GIRL, I THOUGHT THEY WERE ANGELS FALLING TO EARTH!

LITTLE DOES THE SCARLET WITCH REALIZE HOW CLOSE TO THE TRUTH SHE WAS. FOR BEHIND THAT GLARE OF REFLECTED LIGHT RIDES...

--THE SILVER SURFER!

HOW PASSING STRANGE!

IN MY TRAVELS ACROSS THIS GLOBE, I HAVE EVER FOUND MAN TO BE A CREATURE OF *UNREASONING HATRED* AND *VIOLENCE*. YET THIS DAY--

--HE STRIDES UPON THE SNOWS, GREETING HIS FELLOWS AND WISHING THEM GOOD CHEER.

MAC

COULD IT BE THAT THESE FALLING FLAKES HAVE PROPERTIES OF WHICH EVEN **I** AM UNAWARE?

OR PERHAPS IT'S JUST THAT MANKIND CHOOSES TO BE *SANE* ONCE A YEAR.

AND SO, DEEP IN THOUGHT, THE SURFER DRIFTS ON OVER THE CITY--

--PASSING-- IN HIS FLIGHT-- AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE.

HUH? *SILVER-FACE?!* HULK REMEMBERS SILVER-FACE. HE WAS HULK'S *FRIEND* ONCE...

-- BEWILDERMENT.

WHY DIDN'T SILVER-FACE *STOP*? WHY MUST HULK ALWAYS BE *ALONE*?

BUT YOU'RE NOT, HULK!

HUH? MAGICIAN HAS RETURNED?

YES, HULK, I'M BACK. AND IF YOU'LL JUST COME WITH ME, I THINK YOU'LL FIND--

--THAT YOU DO HAVE FRIENDS WHO CARE!

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HULK!

THE JADE-SKINNED GIANT'S EYES GROW **LARGE** AT THE SIGHT OF THE TREE--AND FOR ONE OF THE RARE MOMENTS IN HIS TROUBLED LIFE, HE FEELS THE TOUCH OF... LOVE!

HERE, MY FRIEND. PLEASE ACCEPT THIS WITH OUR BEST WISHES.

PRESENT-- FOR HULK?

HOPE THEY FIT, GREENIE! YOU'RE A HARD MAN TO BUY FOR! AFTER ALL, WHAT DO YOU GIVE THE MAN WHO HAS *NOTHING*?

AND AS THE SNOW DRIFTS UP AROUND THE **SANCTUM SANCTORUM**, THE DEFENDERS CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF JOY AS ONLY THEY CAN...

TO YOUR HEALTH, DOC!

AND TO YOURS, KYLE! MAY THE VISHANTI SMILE UPON US ALL!

THE SPIRIT OF STRANGE'S SENTIMENT ECHOES THROUGHOUT THE CITY THIS NIGHT. IN THE OFFICES OF **THE STOREFRONT** THE TOAST IS:

TO NELSON AND MURDOCK! MAY WE ENJOY MANY MORE CHRISTMASES!

I'LL DRINK TO THAT!

HEY, YOU TWO!

WHILE YOU'RE IN HERE TOASTING THE SEASON, YOU'RE **WASTING** ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SNOW-FALLS OF THE YEAR!

AND JUST HOW IS THAT, HEATHER?

SILLY! IT'S THE **PERFECT** EXCUSE TO TAKE THE LADY FOR A WALK AND SHAKE THE COBWEBS OUT OF YOUR HEAD!

AND SHORTLY...

YOU KNOW, THIS **IS** THE PERFECT WEATHER FOR A WALK WITH A LADY!

AND YOU, LITTLE LADY, HAVE BEEN JUST WHAT THIS **DAREDEVIL** HAS NEEDED FOR SOME TIME!

YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'RE A MILLION MILES AWAY, MATT! WHAT IS IT?

OH... NOTHING.

FUNNY, THE *CHANGES* ONE GOES THRU! I WONDER WHAT *NATASHA*--

"--IS DOING TONIGHT?"

WHAT IN THE *WORLD*? JOHNNY-- COME LOOK AT THIS!

WHAT?! *SNOW*? IN *LOS ANGELES*?!

WELL, AT LEAST I KNOW I'M NOT GOING CRAZY ALONE!

C'MON, WIDDA-LADY! THERE'S SOMETHIN' *SCREWY* GOIN' ON AROUND HERE--AND WE'RE GONNA GET TO THE *BOTTOM* OF IT!

LORD A'MIGHTY! THE SNOW ON THE ROOF-TOP IS DRIFTING UP TO A *FOOT DEEP!*

JOHNNY-- *WAIT!* IF THE DOOR TO THE ROOF IS *OPEN*--!

BUT THE WIDOW'S WARNING IS NEVER FINISHED. FOR NO SOONER DOES THE ERSTWHILE GHOST RIDER REACH THE ROOF, THAN HE IS SUDDENLY STRUCK BY--

--A SNOW-BALL?

SEASONS GREETINGS, BLAZE!

HO-HO! NE'ER HATH THE SON OF ZEUS SEEN SUCH *SPORT*-- NOT SINCE THE DAYS OF THE *ARGOS!*

SAID SPORT COURTESY OF THAT L'IL OL' SNOW-MAKER, ME!

YEAH, THAT SURE WAS ONE LITTLE SURPRISE YOU WHIPPED UP, FROSTY!

FOR A FEW BRIEF MOMENTS THE CHAMPIONS PUT ASIDE THEIR CARES. THEN...

THINK I'LL *RETURN* THE FAVOR TO OUR MONEYMAN!

OKAY, BOBBY--YOU CAN TURN OFF THE SNOW NOW!

TURN OFF--? BUT, WARREN, I *HAVE* STOPPED *MY* SNOW!

Y-YOU MEAN...

OH, WOW!

MAY THE JOY OF THE SEASON BE WITH YOU AND YOURS--NOW, AND IN THE YEAR TO COME!

MERRY CHRISTMAS, MARVELITE!

To: Marveldom Assembled—these classic covers from the sagas presented in this holiday extravaganza.
From: Your Blithesome Bullpen—'cause we love ya!! Peace!

BIOGRAPHIES

BILL MANTLO

From the mid-'70s through the late-'80s, Bill Mantlo established himself as one of the most dedicated writers in the comics industry, writing hundreds of stories across dozens of titles, primarily for Marvel Comics.

Mantlo broke into comics as a colorist, but it wasn't long before he was given a crack at writing a fill-in story, a "Sons of the Tiger" story in the black-and-white *Deadly Hands of Kung Fu* magazine, and his true comics talent began to emerge. The quality of his work led to his installation as that book's regular writer, a tenure that included the notable achievement of introducing comics' first Puerto Rican hero, the White Tiger.

After achieving notoriety within the Marvel offices as a guy who could knock out credible fill-in scripts at a moment's notice, Mantlo was given more regular work. One early highlight was his 20-issue tenure on *Iron Man* that began the Golden Avenger's return to prominence. As one might expect from someone with such a volume of work, Mantlo was game to take on projects others dismissed, and he did it with an unfeigned aplomb that elevated the work.

It was on two licensed titles that Mantlo built his legacy. Inspired by a toy given to his son at Christmas, Mantlo lobbied Marvel to adapt Micronauts into an ongoing series. The award-winning epic he spun with artistic luminaries like Michael Golden and Pat Broderick is still highly revered by comics fandom as is his even longer run on *Rom*, wherein he developed a universe filled with Spaceknights, Dire Wraith monsters and outer space intrigue. Other notable credits in Mantlo's career include *Incredible Hulk*, *Alpha Flight* and *Spectacular Spider-Man.*

Just as Mantlo had begun a new career as a public defender with the New York City Legal Aid Society, he was struck by a hit-and-run driver and went into a weeks-long coma from severe head trauma. He has since been under constant medical care. The comics community has led multiple fundraisers to aid in the continuing care of a talented writer who is missed by his many fans.

SAL BUSCEMA

Without a doubt one of comics' most prolific artists, "Our Pal" Sal Buscema joined Marvel in 1968 shortly after his elder brother, John. Tackling inking duties on *Silver Surfer* and *Fantastic Four*, including the all-time classic *Silver Surfer* #4, Buscema quickly graduated to penciling. He was an anchor of the Marvel line in the 1970s with long runs on books like *Captain America*, *Marvel Team-Up* and *The Spectacular Spider-Man* and a 100-plus issue run on *The Incredible Hulk*. Buscema was also behind defining the tone on early issues of *The Defenders*, *Rom* and *The New Mutants.* His career as one of Marvel's most versatile artists lasted throughout the '70s and into the '90s. In 1988, he returned to *The Spectacular Spider-Man* and over the next ten years penciled every issue but two from #134 through #238 (and inked the vast majority as well!) Although he retired in the late '90s, readers can still see his name on comics credits from time to time, including inking work on the cult hit *Spider-Girl*.

GERRY CONWAY

In 1969, 16-year-old Gerry Conway was shopping short stories to DC and Marvel for their horror anthology books. By 1976, Conway had worked his way up to Marvel's editor in chief. In between, he logged highlight after highlight as writer for both companies.

After establishing a pedigree with horror short stories, Conway quickly became the regular writer of *Daredevil*, *Sub-Mariner* and *Iron Man*. He also began runs on *The Amazing Spider-Man* and *Thor*, picking up both titles from none other than Stan Lee. He scripted both for nearly 50 issues, writing controversial and classic tales including "The Death of Gwen Stacy," the first appearance of the Punisher, and the introduction of Harry Osborn as the Green Goblin. Cueing off his early interest in horror stories, Conway took advantage of Marvel's burgeoning line of horror comics, launching *Werewolf By Night* and *Man-Thing*, as well as writing the first issue of *Tomb of Dracula.*

In 1976, he was handed the top job at Marvel before transitioning to DC Comics. One of his first big assignments was writing the script for one of the first inter-company crossovers, *Superman vs. The Amazing Spider-Man.* Shortly thereafter, he began a long tenure on prime DC titles like *Superboy & The Legion of Super-Heroes*, *World's Finest* and *Wonder Woman*. He also introduced Firestorm with Al Milgrom in 1978, scribing all five issues of the short-lived '70s incarnation.

As the '80s dawned, he started a long run writing both key Batman titles, *Detective Comics* and *Batman*, and continued his run on *Justice League of America*, a stint that began in earnest in 1978 and would end with the dismantling of the infamous JLA Detroit in 1986. During this era, he also revived Firestorm with artist Pat Broderick; this time the title found traction and Conway wrote the first 53 issues. A return to Marvel in the late '80s saw Conway tackling two of the three Spider-Man titles: *The Spectacular Spider-Man* and *Web of Spider-Man*.

During this period, Conway was asserting himself as a writer in film and television. His early '80s screenplay collaborations with Roy Thomas resulted in the animated film *Fire and Ice* and barbarian sequel *Conan the Destroyer*. By the late '80s, his opportunities in television writing had expanded, and he left comics to pursue writing and producing for *Matlock*, *Father Dowling Mysteries*, *Diagnosis: Murder* and *Law & Order*.

Today, Conway continues writing and producing for television and has recently returned to script the occasional comic. He resides in California with his wife and their daughter.

TONY ISABELLA

Like many writers emerging in the early '70s, Tony Isabella's first "official" writing for Marvel was as a fan in its letter pages. His comprehensive knowledge of the Marvel Universe and its characters, combined with his gift for writing, made him a natural for a job as an editorial assistant in 1972. Eventually working his way up to a job as editor and writer, Isabella carved out a niche in Marvel's horror titles with "It! The Living Colossus" in the pages of *Astonishing Tales*, "The Living Mummy" in *Supernatural Thrillers* and scribing a variety of stories across the black-and-white magazines line, including *Dracula Lives!*, *Tales of the Zombie*, *Vampire Tales* and *Monsters Unleashed*.

Isabella's most familiar contributions to Marvel readers were in a long run of *Ghost Rider* stories and the introduction of Tigra to Marvel's stable of female heroines. His twelve-issue spin with the demonic alter ego of Johnny Blaze included a controversial tale featuring Ghost Rider's redemption with Jesus Christ, a milestone moment of the era. After Tigra's first appearance, Isabella led her to a team-up with Thing in *Marvel Two-In-One* and ongoing adventures in *Marvel Chillers*.

His other credits included "Iron Fist" in *Marvel Premiere*, *Hero for Hire/Power Man* starring Luke Cage and a fill-in story that appeared in two issues of *Avengers*, featuring the Assassin's unrelenting pursuit of Earth's Mightiest Heroes. Isabella also conceived and wrote the first seven issues of *Champions*, the '70s super-hero team featuring Hercules, Black Widow, Ghost Rider, Angel and Iceman.

At DC, Isabella created Black Lightning (now a hit TV series on the CW) in the '70s, revamped Hawkman and Hawkwoman in the early '80s and wrote critically-acclaimed Black Lightning series in 1995 and 2017-2018. Isabella has written for various comic-book publishers, ghosted newspaper comic strips, authored books on comics history, lectures at libraries and schools, appears at numerous conventions throughout the year and, in addition to all the above, writes the online and nigh-daily "Tony Isabella's Bloggy Thing."

ROGER STERN

Born in Noblesville, Indiana, in 1950, Roger Stern was a self-professed "child of the '50s," immersing himself in pop culture icons like Lucille Ball, the Lone Ranger, and especially Superman. After graduating from Indiana University, Stern worked at Indianapolis' WXLW radio and formed a comic fan collective with fans in the region. Stern teamed with fellow Hoosier Bob Layton to transform Layton's comic sales business into the fanzine *CPL* (*Contemporary Pictorial Literature*). Their efforts led to an offer from Charlton to create the publisher's official fanzine, *Charlton Bullseye*. Soon after, Stern's fandom pal Roger Slifer contacted him with an opportunity to interview for a Marvel staff job. Stern raced to New York to put his passion for comics to the test. He was hired as an assistant editor and in 1975 embarked on an eleven-year career at Marvel. Stern's early editing duties saw him guiding the Avengers family of titles, *Master of Kung Fu*, *Spider-Woman*, and others. He also presided over *X-Men* during the seminal Chris Claremont, John Byrne, and Terry Austin run, and plotted *Marvel Premiere* #50 starring rocker Alice Cooper.

In 1978, he began to take on regular writing work on *The Incredible Hulk* and *Doctor Strange*. His compelling storytelling quickly earned him an audience and turns writing *Captain America* and Spider-Man in *The Spectacular Spider-Man.* The latter title led to his tenure on *The Amazing Spider-Man*, a run regarded by many as second only to Stan Lee's. Amongst their many Spidey highlights, Stern and artist John Romita Jr. introduced the Hobgoblin and a new Captain Marvel, Monica Rambeau. Stern also began a long stint on *The Avengers*, launched *West Coast Avengers*, and returned for another celebrated run on *Doctor Strange*.

When his tenure with Marvel came to an end in the late '80s, Stern became indelibly linked to the Man of Steel with iconic work that included "The Death of Superman." Since then "Uncle Rog," as he is known to his devoted fans, has returned to Marvel to write several series including *Avengers Forever*, *Amazing Spider-Man*, *Marvel: The Lost Generation*, *Captain America Corps*, and more.

GEORGE TUSKA

His first art lesson was in a hospital bed, a teenager laid low by an appendectomy with nothing to do but draw cowboys and Indians under the tutelage of a fellow patient. But a decade later, George Tuska hit the ground running as part of the famed Eisner/Iger studio, beginning his career in comics. After early success drawing strips like "Spike Marlin" and "Shark Brodie," Tuska departed from Eisner/Iger and the company of fellow artists like Lou Fine and Bob Powell to join Harry "A" Chesler's art studio, where he would draw his first pages of Captain Marvel in *Master Comics* and *Captain Marvel Adventures*.

By the age of 24, Tuska had gone back and forth between Eisner/Iger (where he drew some of Eisner's iconic *Spirit* strips) and Fawcett, and after a stint in World War II, he settled into a run with Lev Gleason on *Crime Does Not Pay* and also worked on various newspaper strips.

As the '50s concluded, he was well entrenched as artist on *Buck Rogers* dailies and Sundays, but he would return to comic books by joining Marvel in a big way in 1968. With *Iron Man* #5, he established himself as regular artist for a two-year stint, helping anchor the identity of the Armored Avenger. After a year away, he would again return to *Iron Man* many times over the rest of the '70s, drawing it along with other Marvel titles like *Hero For Hire*, *Ghost Rider* and *Black Goliath*. In addition to taking on the daily *Superman* strip in 1978, he also worked steadily with DC through the '70s on many of their books. Retiring after a long and solid career as a cartoonist in 1993, Tuska continued to draw commissions for his many fans until his 2009 death at the age of 93.

RON WILSON

Brooklyn-born Ron Wilson took his comic art aspirations to Marvel as an 18-year-old and was told by veteran Frank Giacoia that his talent level was "six months away" from getting him work. In 1973, as freshman at the Brooklyn Technical College of Art, Wilson submitted new samples and was hired to draw stories in Marvel's horror comics. Soon, Wilson turned out quick and quality work on covers, learning the ropes beside the production staff and legends such as John Buscema. Stories in *Power Man*, *Giant-Size Man-Thing* and *Master of Kung Fu* led to the title—and character—he would be most associated with for the rest of his career: the Thing's *Marvel Two-In-One*. He drew most of the next thirty issues of the title, took a respite to draw the black-and-white *The Hulk!* magazine, and then returned to *Marvel Two-In-One* in the latter part of 1980 to draw most of the rest of its 100-issue run. Once the team-up concept for the Thing drew to a close, Wilson was given the launch of a new *Thing* solo series written by John Byrne; he would draw the first 33 issues of the title. Other credits of the late '80s include the *Wolfpack* mini-series and graphic novel written by Larry Hama, the Star Comics adaptation of *Masters of the Universe*, and *Super Boxers*, Wilson's creator-owned graphic novel collaboration with Byrne. In the 1990s, Wilson left monthly comic book illustration but he continues to work today as a commission artist.

Biographies researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

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THE GOLDEN AGE

As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over America, a new storytelling medium was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States. At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary creators as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee. These trailblazing talents birthed a vast array of characters that would give rise to the Marvel Universe!

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GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-6
GOLDEN AGE DARING MYSTERY VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE MARVEL COMICS VOLS. 1-7
GOLDEN AGE MYSTIC COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE U.S.A. COMICS VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE YOUNG ALLIES VOLS. 1-2

THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the Golden Age retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, the Atlas Era had it all!

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ATLAS ERA MENACE VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA STRANGE TALES VOLS. 1-6
ATLAS ERA TALES TO ASTONISH VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA TALES OF SUSPENSE VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA VENUS VOL. 1

THE MARVEL AGE

In August 1961, change hit newsstands: *The Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. They were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves — and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different — the beginning of the Marvel Age of Comics!

Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

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THE CHAMPIONS VOL. 1
DAREDEVIL VOLS. 1-14
DAZZLER VOL. 1
DEATHLOK VOL. 1
THE DEFENDERS VOLS. 1-6
DOCTOR STRANGE VOLS. 1-9
THE FANTASTIC FOUR VOLS. 1-21
GHOST RIDER VOL. 1
THE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-2
THE INCREDIBLE HULK VOLS. 1-13
THE INHUMANS VOLS. 1-2
THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN VOLS. 1-12
IRON FIST VOLS. 1-2
KA-ZAR VOLS. 1-2
KILLRAVEN VOL. 1
LUKE CAGE VOLS. 1-3
MARVEL RARITIES VOL. 1
MARVEL TEAM-UP VOLS. 1-5
MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE VOLS. 1-4
THE MIGHTY THOR VOLS. 1-19
MS. MARVEL VOLS. 1-2
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. VOLS. 1-3
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SPIDER-WOMAN VOL. 1
THE SILVER SURFER VOLS. 1-2
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